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May 11th, 1978 ★ Volume 13, Number 19 ★ *13th Year of Publishing* • FIFTY-CENTS

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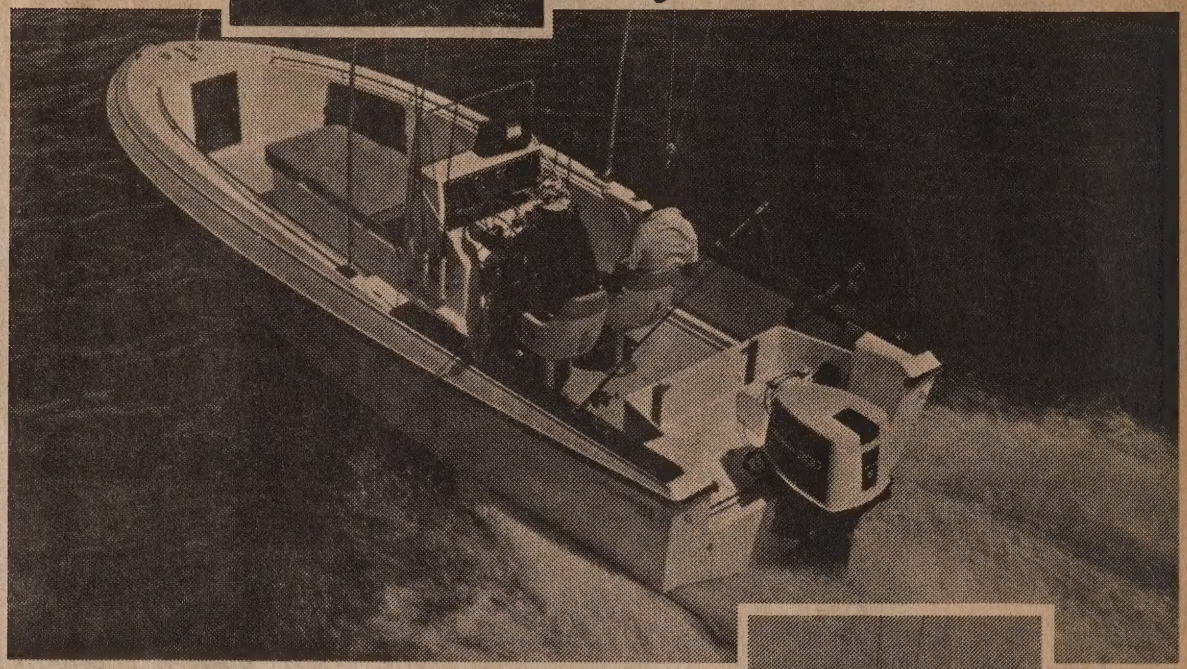

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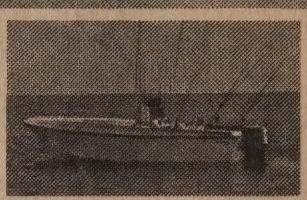

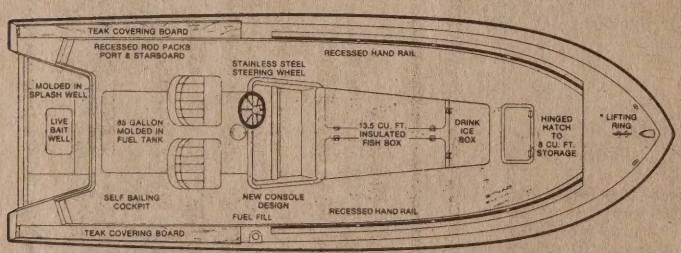

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

MAY 11, 1978 ISSUE NO. 19

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COMING NEXT WEEK:
FLUKE FISHING

About the Cover—

It's weakfish time in the bays and some really big fish have made an appearance, so it's time to break out the light tackle and enjoy those big tiderunners. *Photo by Dick Mermon*

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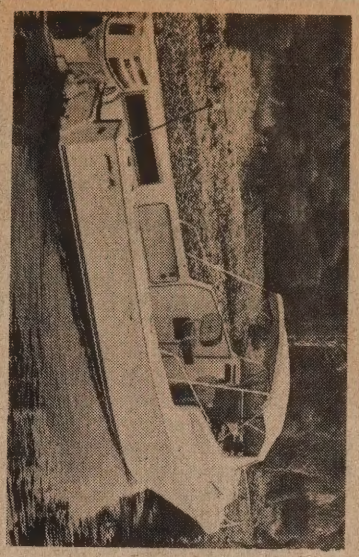

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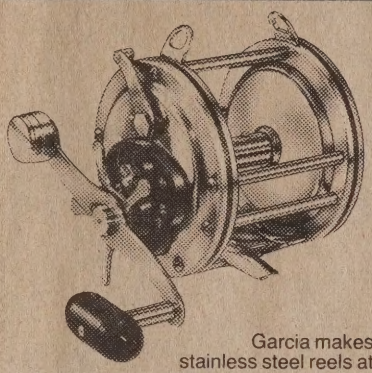

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From the Editor's Head

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Thoughts On Access!

It's an old story, but it's still news. We get letters from kids and we get them from senior citizens, too; and the theme is the same. Why don't we have ocean fishing piers the way they do down south? To add insult to injury, other arenas of fishing contests have been closed and the net result is anger and frustration among fishermen. John Masso of Port Washington wrote: "I'm getting the message that politicians don't want us on the beaches, they don't want us on the bridges, and pretty soon they won't want us on the water either. Somehow, we have got to get them to listen to us and they must understand that we are taxpayers, too. If they can build and maintain parks, tennis courts, picnic grounds, and swimming beaches, they had better damn well provide some access to fishermen."

One of the most interesting letters that we have received lately came from William Schwenzer of Islip Terrace. "In my search for better facilities, I have had the opportunity to fish the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of South Carolina, without the use of a vessel, only because the Carolina government saw fit to construct fishing piers that reach into the Atlantic about 100 yards. These piers not only held the fishermen but...toilets, lights, a large double sink (so [that] one could clean his or her catch before bringing it home), and a small bait and tackle shop (as well). Most encouraging was the enthusiasm towards encouraging their local fishermen to stay in their own state."

The straw that broke Mr. Schwenzer's back was the closure of the Smith Point Bridge to fishing. He wondered why a safe catwalk wasn't constructed along the side of the bridge as an alternative to closing it. We have to wonder, too. Bill Schwenzer points out that if a facility has to be closed for some good reason—okay, but it should be replaced by a comparable or better facility immediately. On Long Island, he points out, fishing access is taken away without replacement.

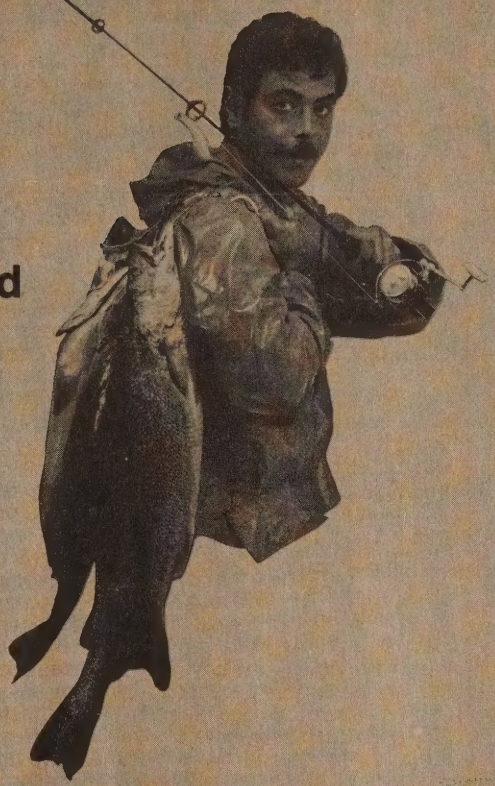
That Bill Schwenzer writes his letter with such passion is not surprising, since he must feel that an important and valuable part of his life is being taken away from him and many others without proper and judicious concern for the needs and desires of these taxpayers. Bill is not alone. Sure, middle class affluent America can afford their luxurious Fiberglas boats and escape into the middle of the bay. But what becomes of the youngster who discovers fishing, but whose parents do not enjoy the sport. Where shall this youngster fish? Then too, many senior citizens lack sufficient money for the more luxurious accoutrements of American life, so where shall they fish? Even affluent America discovers that there are times when they don't want to take the boat out and a casual Sunday afternoon at an ocean fishing pier might be just the ticket to family contentment.

We can sympathize with these ideas, since we, too, have seen the way in which facilities are provided for local and tourist fishermen alike in southern climes. We, too, have wondered why our state government has neglected fishermen. As Bill Schwenzer points out there is a value to encouraging local fishermen to stay home. They spend their money at home instead of elsewhere. Is New York State's economy in such good shape that we can turn our backs on tourism and the promotion of internal sound economics?

Bill Schwenzer's enthusiasm has prompted him to start a petition which will be sent to Suffolk County officials asking for the Smith Point Bridge to be reopened for fishing access; but perhaps Bill's good idea should be expanded.

He said it best himself. "How about it, Governor Carey?" Why not petition the State of New York to construct ocean fishing piers. Bill's petition already has accumulated 195 signatures, and that's a healthy beginning.

The BUCKTAIL STICK®



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Bucktailing is probably the most versatile and popular form of salt water fishing. You can fish an ol' deer hair jig from boat, beach, bridge or jetty and catch just about anything that swims. Yet, even as popular as bucktailing has become, choosing the proper rod has been an angler's nightmare for years. Well, the search is over, now there's a rod designed especially for the serious salt water bucktail fisherman . . . the G66S Graphite Speed Stick.

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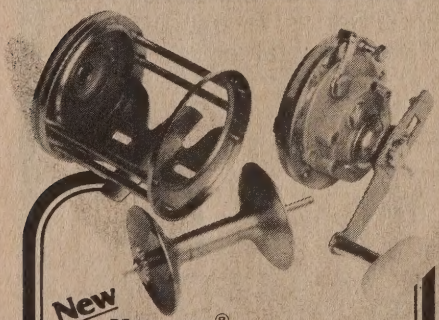

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CHUM LINES

NATURAL CONDITIONS

I am writing this letter hoping that someone on your experienced staff can assist me with the following, as this has been bothering me for quite sometime now, and I can't seem to find a simplified answer or clarification:

In previous articles and newspaper columns, I often see mentioned the following "Natural" conditions as having a direct influence on fishing conditions: Tide (incoming and outgoing); Full Moon (as well as other "Phases"); wind direction.

Can you explain to me (in layman's terms), or direct me to a former issue of yours or other publication, exactly how each of these "natural" conditions influence fishing? Also, can you point out "favorable" as well as "unfavorable" conditions for all three?

Any and all assistance you may offer will be greatly appreciated. Thank you. **Emil W. Mian, Bronx, N.Y.**

We don't mean this with any disrespect, but when we were young we asked our parents why the sky was blue, and sure enough our mom or our dad looked around and searched for the quick and easy answer, only to start talking and not know when to end the explanation. We feel the same way, and we're frustrated because we would like nothing better than to answer you one-two-three. Your question is so, so, so important because it gets at the very reason for our existence. We print different articles and special features, many of which attempt to explain these natural conditions. Each author in turn discovers that, try as they may, they can only discuss one little aspect of the problem lest their discussion becomes so cumbersome that they, too, get lost. Each of these conditions has a different effect on different species on different occasions and the only help we can offer is keep reading and asking questions and try to see if there is a magic summary. If you find it, let us know because we want to print it! Thanks.

UNTIL WE WIN!

I wish to thank all of you for the wonderful job you're doing. I see an end to polluted, overfished waters. I see an end to foreign fleets destroying our resources.

Your editorials are informative and direct. Including names and addresses of parties and individuals involved allows us to apply pressure if we care to. I care. Let's not get complacent until we win. **H. Edward Olsen, W. Islip, N.Y.**

Right on! As long as there are so many concerned fishermen like yourself on Long Island, we'll always be able to successfully work for a better tomorrow. It's a good rallying cry and we like it! "UNTIL WE WIN!"

WEAKFISH STREAMERS?

I am writing to you for some help about where I can buy some saltwater streamers for weakfish? I would like to have stainless steel hooks on these. Is there such a thing? I do all fishing up your way, out of Capt. Marty's and would like to use my ole bugging rod with a WF9FS Hi D line. I've looked high and low in my area with no luck. **F. Fisahn, Kearny, N.J.**

Since none of the LIF staff are fly rod enthusiasts, I'm afraid that we cannot help you. However, check out Issue #21 where the SurfSide column will deal with weakfish flies. You also might want to think about attending a meeting of the Salty Flyrodders. How about it, Salty Flyrodders—can you help this fisherman?

INDEBTED

I read with interest in Chum Lines the letter from R. Brown, "Stop the Political Crap."

While I don't consider myself an old-timer, I have been a subscriber for more years than I can remember. My favorite reading is know-how about fishing.

However, in this day and age, I don't think we can put our heads in the sand and ignore the political aspects of fishing. While it is not always pleasant to read about the government rules and regulations that have an adverse effect on fish and fishing, it is good to know what is happening.

Where else can one get such excellent reporting and even guidance about the current political matters relating to fishing and conservation. There is no other newspaper that gives this quality of reporting.

Actually, I feel indebted for all the time and effort that you and your staff devote to attending meetings, research and analysis.

You deserve a gold star in my book. Keep up the wonderful work—it will help guarantee that there will be fish in the sea for years to come and with proper regulation. **Frank Haklisch, Rye, N.Y.**

IT'S A COMPETITIVE BUSINESS

The recent criticism of Capt. John DeMaio is, in my opinion, without justification. The man is a dedicated sportsman devoted to the conservation of our marine resources. We must remember, however, that he is in a very competitive business. Most people—myself included—spending that kind of money for a charter, want fish. It is his responsibility to provide his clients that opportunity. If he didn't do the excellent job he does, he would change occupation, and not through choice either.

After reading your April 20 issue, I wrote to Gov. Carey urging him to

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nominate Scott Simons to the "Council." I also urged the Governor to nominate Captain DeMaio. What an excellent job they would both do.

The only criticism I have of Capt. DeMaio is that he gets so grouchy when you put the stick under your right arm, or use some other unorthodox fishing technique. **Sal Bracco. Bronx, N.Y.**

PERSISTANCE AND INDEPENDENT STUDY

Through "persistence and independent study" you gain experience and knowledge and that over a period of time does make someone an authority. I ask Don Ambrico how, except through "persistence and independent study" he has achieved his level of authority on catching bass. (I acknowledge him as one of the best.)

The 26 inch limit on bass is ridiculous, but like everything else, you shoot for the moon just to get halfway. My feeling is that S.O.S. knows that the 26 inch limit will not be legislated but that a compromise has a chance. Proposing the "ridiculous" just stirs up the deadheads to accept the reasonable.

One thing that is a must is that any new laws on bass must be equal for everyone (sport and commercial) over the entire range of the bass. If not, the complexity would make it totally ineffective. **George Romanowich, Jr., Sheepshead Bay, N.Y.**

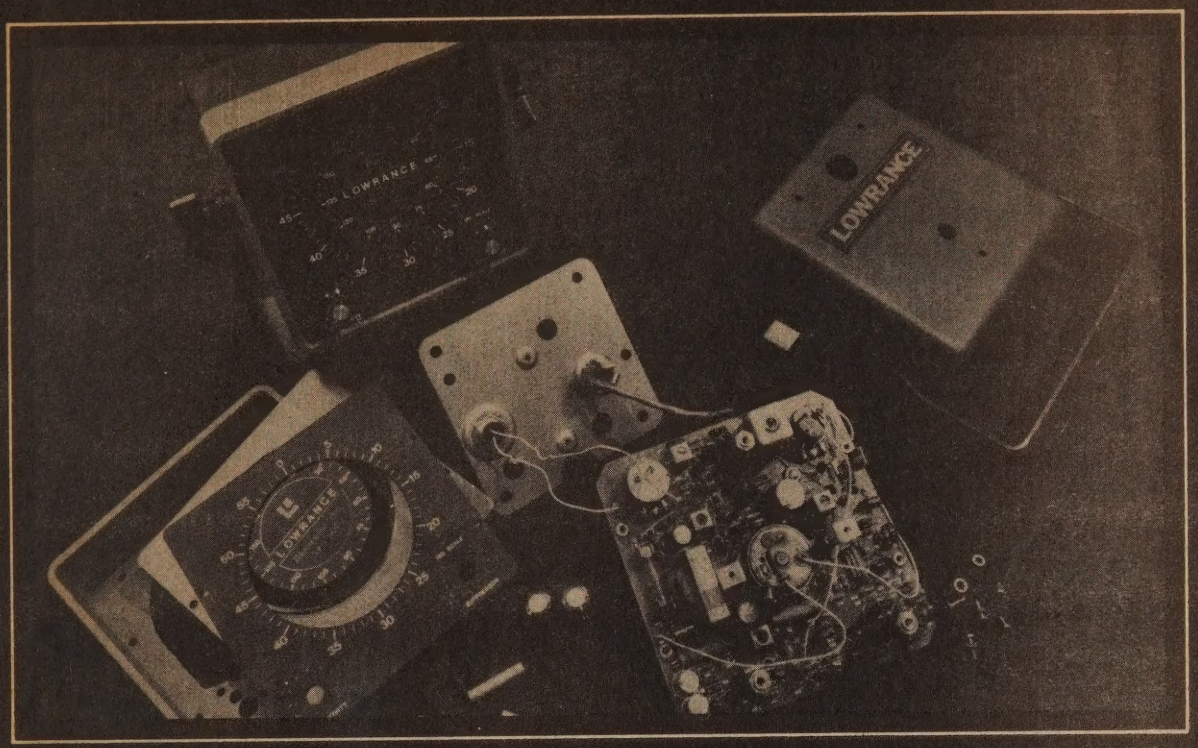
WANTS INFO ON SAND EELS

I am a subscriber (may hold some weight in getting this letter answered) and reader of LIF.

More importantly (I think), I fish. Anyway, I—like everyone else around here—have noticed the increase in numbers of sand eels (where can I buy stock in tins—long live eg!). I want to give live-lining them a shot. How can I catch them and keep them alive? (The sand eels, not tins.) I should mention I have a boat, but any shore method is acceptable. **William Marszalkiewicz, NYC.**

Interest in sand eels has been keen lately. Lots of fishermen recognize that this bait has become very abundant and that many species are feeding on them. As a result, there are many fishermen who have begun to seek out lures that imitate the bait fish and bulk sources of the bait. The best source for bulk would be the Fulton Fish Market. Of course, these will be dead and thus, in order to live-line the critters, you will have to collect them yourself. This is best done with a seine net from the beach and a cast net from a boat.

Keeping them alive is something else again, since they die very quickly. However, you can keep them alive in a large live bait well with efficient circulation and water exchange. Special screening will be necessary in order to prevent them from being sucked up into the pump where they will quickly clog it. Don't crowd them too much either. A



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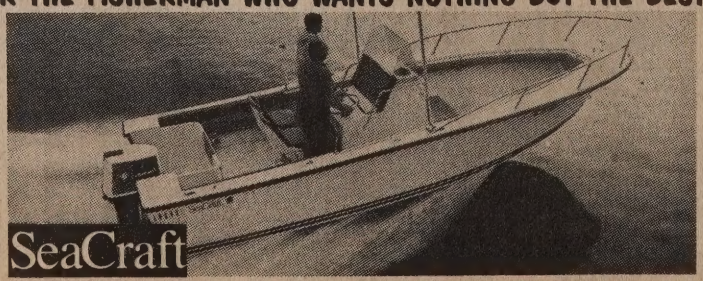

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limited number can be kept alive for awhile in a killy cart. Lots of luck.

WHERE CAN I SURF FISH?

I would like you to know that being an avid reader of the LIF, my congratulations on such an interesting and informative publication. I've learned much from your many articles about fishing methods and techniques.

As a favor, I would like some information on when and especially where I could go surf fishing for stripers and blues. It seems places where I intended to fish are either closed after sunset, such as Jones Beach or private. I live in Queens Village and can't make it out to Montauk or Jersey on a week night. **John W. Bernet, Queens Village, N.Y.**

Thanks for the kind words about our publications. You indicate some frustration because some of the places that you like to fish are closed after sunset. Parks of the Long Island State Park Commission are open to surf fishermen after sunset if they have a night fishing permit. The permit can be obtained at any office of any park, such as Jones Beach. It is free. The permit lists the parks where access is possible and the rules under which we can use the permit. Most parks issue the permits during normal business hours, but a few issue them on weekends as well. We hope this will help.

WE ALL CAN LEARN SOMETHING!

Let me start off by telling you that I'm a 16-year-old high school student who has been fishing nearly all my life (12 years). For the past four, I have subscribed to The L.I.F., and let me tell you, I'll be subscribing for many, many years to come. Keep up the good work.

My problem is this. In all the years that I've been fishing, I've come across many anglers who were glad to help me if I was having a problem. After all, this is the only way that you'll ever improve yourself. But in recent years, I've come across the reverse situation. Many times while fishing, I'll see an angler who is in need of some assistance. And then, if I went over and tried to help him, it would result in remarks like, "what does that kid know!" And even worse, there's been times when I have had people telling me I'm doing something wrong when I've been catching fish that way for years. Now, I know that I'm no perfect angler, but people should take some consideration to the fact that the age of a fisherman has nothing to do with his angling skills or the number of years he's been fishing. We all can learn from our fellow fishermen, no matter how old.

Agreed!

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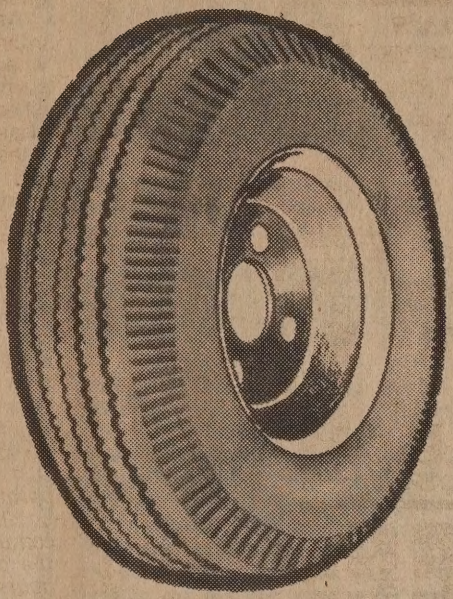

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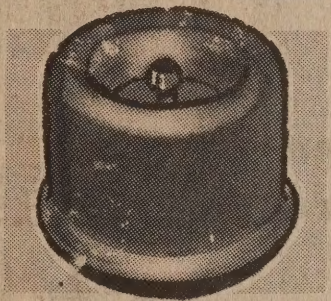

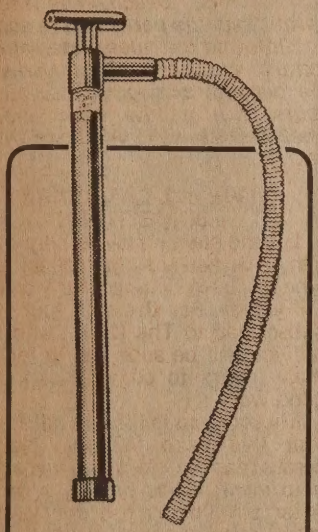

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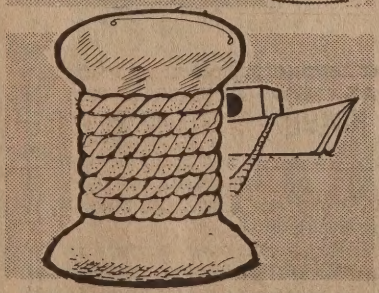

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READER COMPLIMENTS FOR RONNIE DE LUCA

I have just finished reading your article in the Fisherman #14 this date. I have been a fisherman most of my 28 years of life. I grew up in Sheepshead Bay, Bklyn., and I am now living on Long Island. I have met many different types of fishermen and fisherwomen. I found your article very honest and amusing, a quality rarely found these days. I would like you to know that I think it would be a great honor and a privilege to fish alongside of you, any time, anywhere.

Please keep up all your good work in fishing and writing. **Donald P. Purkess, Bay Shore, N.Y.**

Congratulations! It is about time you stopped being a male chauvinist magazine and have a woman on your writing staff.

Many women are better fisherpeople than men, and we are never appreciated. I do my own baiting, and take the fish off the hook, and can fillet a fish as good as any man.

Thank you for finally acknowledging the fact that we are alive. P.S.—My husband and I have subscribed to the Long Island Fisherman for eight years. **Mrs. William Koerner Floral Park, N.Y.**

To the best of our knowledge, we have never been a chauvinist magazine, but it may look that way. If we are short on articles written by women, it's only because few have sent in any articles over the years. That is precisely why we sought out Ms. DeLuca and Ms. Sands [articles to appear in later issues] to write for us. Thanks for your thoughts. Incidentally, it's very nice to know that women read the publication, as well as write for it.

CLUB NEWS

STRIPER SURF CLUB AWARDS DINNER

At our annual awards dinner, the Striper Surf Club, Inc., celebrated its most successful year. Among its accomplishments for 1977 was the standing in the R. J. Schaefer club contest. They took First Place N.Y. State overall, as well as First Place for stripers and First Place for bluefish; also First Place Eastern Seaboard for blues in the surf.

Individual Schaefer winners for the Long Island Division included: largest striped bass in the surf—Jack Driscoll 46 lbs.; largest blue in surf—Leif Gobel, 19-8, which also took third largest blue overall, and Ira Friedman—largest blue in surf N.Y. Division, 17-4. Schaefer presented reels to the winners and trophies to the Club categories.

Newly elected officers were Pres. Jack Driscoll, 1st V.P. Jack Vande-

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kieft; 2nd V.P. Mike Campannelli; Treasury Tony Jesu; Sect. Sal Siciliano; Recording Sect. Bill Rothwell; Sgt.-at-Arms Ron Corso.

Club awards for surf-caught bass went to Ira Friedman, most pt. fish (15 lbs. or over) 91, including a 44 lb. and a 40 lb. N.Y. fish. Jack Driscoll—largest bass, 46 lb. 12 oz., and a 44 pound plus 49 pt. fish. Jack Vandekieft-most N.Y. fish and second largest N.Y. fish 37 lbs. First of the season—Tony Jesu; last of the season—Ira Friedman.

The Club awaits the prospects of another super year, and incidentally, its cutoff date for new members is in May. There are three openings on the roster and interested parties can call Bob Sicky at (212) 528-5395 or Barry Simon at (516) 221-2658.

PATCHOGUE FISHING CLUB FLOUNDER CONTEST

On Sunday, April 16 the Patchogue Fishing Club had its annual flounder contest. The locale was the Moriches area.

Greg Maynard of Sayville: 1st—1 lb. 15 oz.
Chet Owczarek of Lake Ronkonkoma: 2nd—1 lb. 10 oz.
Tom Ganetis of Patchogue: 3rd—1 lb. 8 oz.
Paul McGregor of Stony Brook: 4th—1 lb. 6 oz.

OAKDALE SPORTSMENS CLUB FLOUNDER TOURNAMENT

The Oakdale Sportsmens Club held its first tournament on Sunday, April 23, 1978. Fishing was limited to the local bay.

Approximately 60 members participated in mens and womens categories. Results were as follows:

Ladies: 1st Place tie: Lois Butler, Ruth Schmidt—1 lb. 9 oz.; 2nd Place—Kathy Ebrecht—1 lb. 8 oz.; 3rd Place tie—Eleanor Fogg, Marge Divan—1 lb. 6 oz.

Men: 1st Place Tie: Charlie Johnson, Tom Roberts—1 lb. 11 oz.; 2nd Place 3-way Tie: Rocco Varone, Geo. Cherveny, James Butler—1 lb. 9 oz.; 3rd Place: Split with first two.

NEW BOOKS

YAKIMA BAIT CO. CATALOG

Yakima Bait Company is offering their color catalog of spin fishing lure baits to fishermen. Those interested may request a copy by sending $.25 to cover mailing and handling to: Yakima Bait Co., Dept. PR 28, P. O. Box 310, Granger, WA. 98932.

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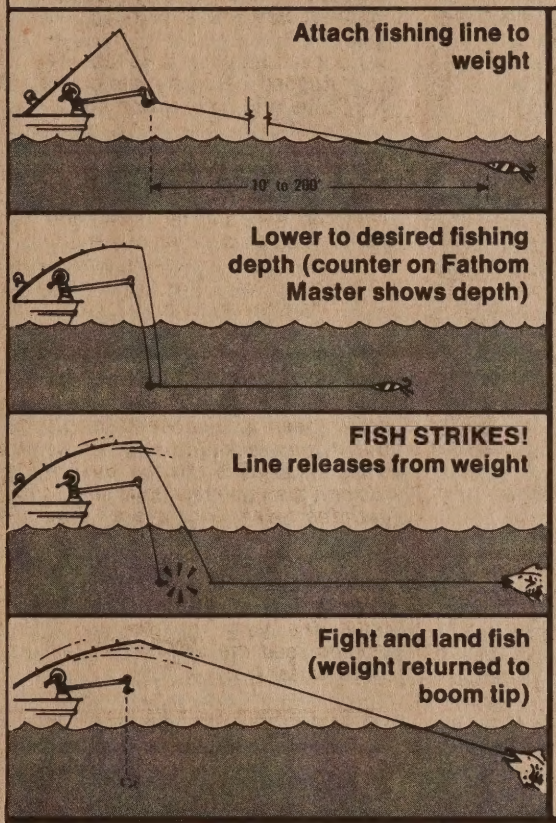
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FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

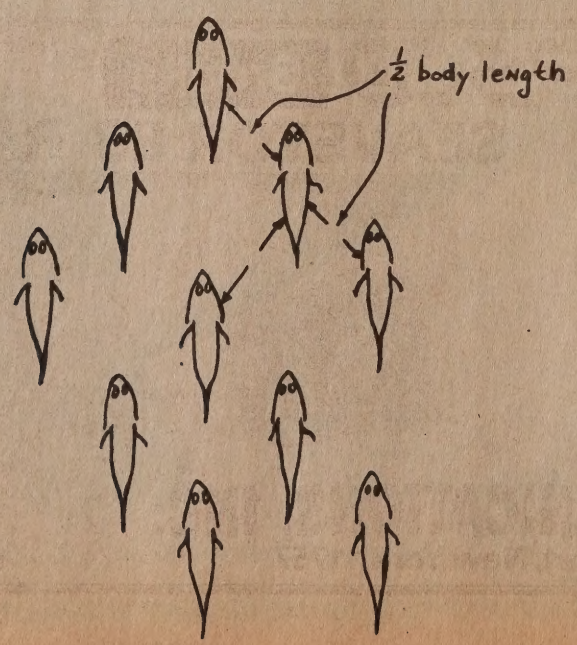
RECENT RESEARCH ON SCHOOLING—*Part II*
Some Implications for Fishermen

SIGHT, SOUND, AND SMELL! In Part I, we looked at the effects of input to these three senses on fish schooling behavior. The consensus of most scientists is that sight is the most important sense in maintaining relationships between members of a school of fish. Sound perception, especially low frequency vibrations through the lateral line system, chimes in as a close second to vision in importance. Higher frequency sound may be useful in aggregating fish from great distances, but seems to have only minor value in schooling behavior. A fish's sense of smell may be vital to the survival of some species such as salmon, but also plays a minor role in schooling behavior.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF SCHOOLING? We will take the liberty of pushing off one aspect of this discussion until Part III, because a consideration of the effect of schooling on prey-predator relationships is long and complicated, yet an interesting story. But with respect to prey-predator relationships, this is perhaps the arena where fishermen can benefit a great deal from knowledge of it.

SPACING! To begin with, a school of fish is not just a well coordinated, evenly spaced group, because the arrangement of the individuals in space is very precise. Most fish, swimming in well-defined schools, swim at a distance of about one-half a body length apart. Furthermore, several studies have confirmed that the fish take up diagonal positions. Is this a coincidence, a strange evolutionary oddity? Your first thoughts were correct: Nature is not fond of wasting energy. It is not significant that spacing and positioning are the same for many schooling species. Weihs points out that this relationship helps the members of the school by creating or inducing a movement of water around members of the school which makes their forward swimming easier. Consider that if a fish swims directly behind the fish in front that it will be swimming against the water vortex created by the forward thrust of that fish. It would be similar to swimming in a tide-rip and, of course, the fish would have to expend more energy to achieve the same forward speed. When this expenditure of energy is multiplied by all the members in the school, the net result is a much greater expenditure of energy by the school. Thus, these fish would have to eat more and the search for food would require more energy and ultimately, the logic of feeding relationships in the sea might fall apart. There is some evidence to suggest that this adaptation not only avoids the waste of energy, but actually saves energy. Weihs suggests that the phenomena may not be unlike that observed for cars which race at high speeds. The first car "pulls" the air along and, therefore, the car that follows experiences less wind or air resistance. The same appears to hold true for fishes swimming in a school.

DIAGRAM I FISH SCHOOL PATTERN



CONFIRMING EVIDENCE? A number of other researchers have investigated related problems. For example, fish are "negatively" buoyant or, another way of putting this is to say that they are heavier than the water in which they swim. Well then, fish will have to spend energy in order to overcome this problem just the same way that people expend energy to overcome the downward pull of gravity in order to stand up. The wake left behind each fish in the school is an upward turbulance that helps the fish overcome its problem of being heavier than the water. According to Weihs, the energy saved is most significant when the behavior of the school is totally and perfectly coordinated. Although many of nature's systems are well tuned, few are perfect. In spite of the fact that the reactions of members of a school are not always totally in synchrony, the conservation of energy is enormous. Computer and mathematical models have been established to interpret information and predict the optimum, or best, level of function or activity. These models have been developed and are used in fisheries research today. According to these models, most modern sleek fish should cruise at a speed of about one body length per second in order to minimize energy expenditures and maintain stamina. However, investigators have shown that many fish cruise at a rate of two or three times this level and that a few species cruise at seven times the expected rate of speed. The activity of the school helps each individual to conserve energy and thus the same total output of energy results in higher speeds.

SIZE OF THE SCHOOL AFFECTS THIS, TOO! Two years ago, a scientist asked the question, "What effect would fewer and/or larger numbers of individuals in the school have on the energy expenditure of the school. He examined schools of mullet. In one case, he studied a small school of fifteen or fewer specimens. In the second phase of the study, he observed schools with fifty or more members. He found that the average cruising speed for the small schools were 5.6 body lengths per second, whereas the large school was able to maintain an average cruising speed of almost 7.6 body lengths per second. But were these fish using less energy or simply swimming faster? The harder we work, the more oxygen we consume, so that when we work hard we breathe hard. Thus, the amount of oxygen consumed is an excellent measure of the amount of energy

expended. Studies show that fish in larger schools may use much less oxygen than those in small schools when engaged in similar behavior.

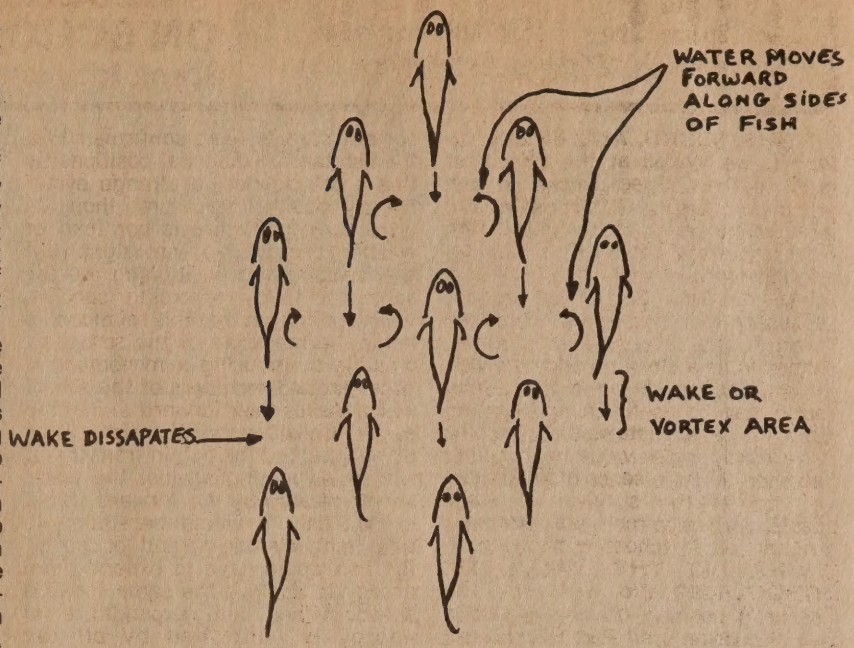
LESS DRAG, TOO! Our discussion so far has not concerned itself with drag or the resistance of water molecules to the passage of an object. Thrust vortices enhance forward speed, but do not necessarily reduce drag. The water molecules are still there pressing up against the body of the fish, creating friction. We know that sleek, speedy modern predatory fish have the capacity to produce vast amounts of mucus. Furthermore, it has been proven that when one of these fish suddenly accelerates that mucus production also accelerates. Thus, the mucus which rolls along the surface of the skin dissipates the frictional resistance of the water and reduces drag. Mucus production is much slower among slow swimming fishes even when they are thrusting to their maximum capacity. An interesting experiment was performed in which a synthetic substance similar to mucus was added to the water in which slow swimming fish were moving. The presence of the substance resulted in an increase in speed of as much as sixty-six percent, even though the forward thrust of the fish was the same.

THE EVOLUTION OF SCHOOLING! Breder suggests that schooling behavior may have evolved among slow moving fishes first, because the wakes of fish contain small amounts of mucus which has been shown to reduce the water drag of the individuals behind. The slower moving species thus gained an advantage by schooling in that they were able to swim faster without additional expenditure of energy by swimming together.

SIGNIFICANCE FOR FISHERMEN! The results of these studies may help to explain several phenomena that are frequently observed by fishermen. First, peak action when working on a school o f fish usually occurs when the predators have broken up the organization of a school of bait and are themselves spreading out in the process of hunting down the prey. Matching catch statistics with graphing recorder records at different times of the day suggests that this is indeed the case. When the graph recorder shows a tight, well organized school of predators, the action usually rates as a pick. However, ten or fifteen minutes later when the predators have spread out, fish may be taken on almost every attempt. The implication may be that when predators first attack a school of bait, eating is not a priority; rather, disrupting the bait and destroying the organizations of the bait fish school is the initial instinct. When the bait is dispersed, the individual bait fish swim slower and thus may be easier to capture. Second, fishermen often say that when predators are caught while in the process of attacking well organized bait fish schools through the use of a well organized predatory school, that the fish are more aggressive and fight harder. Perhaps the accelerated production of mucus that is produced by actively hunting fish, increases their forward thrust capacity significantly, which the fisherman perceives as a better fight.

Next week: Part III: Predation and Synchrony.

DIAGRAM II SWIMMING ACTIVITIES OF INDIVIDUAL FISH ENHANCES SPEED OF THE SCHOOL



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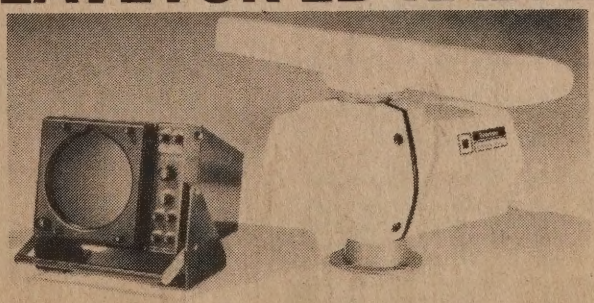

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by Vlad Evanoff

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FLUKE FISHING

★ *Part One* ★

One cold evening last January I read an interesting fishing article wherein the author stated it was his firm belief that this summer's fluke results would leave much to be desired. "Summer flounder (fluke) fishing is due to a return to the doldrums that began in the mid-sixties and ended in the early seventies," was the way it was put. I don't know if this gloomy prediction will prove true—only time will tell, of course—but I believe interested anglers ought to assume this piscatory Nostradamus is correct and take it from there. Should this gentleman's forecast be on the money, I believe those fluke fishermen who expect to connect this summer will have their work cut out for them. I say this with all due consideration for I've never found fluke easy to come by—even in the best of times. Fewer fluke will, of course, mean increased pressure by the fishing fraternity on those which are available. But much more important because of this lessened supply of fish is the problem of an over-abundance of food. Which, of course, is fine for the fluke, but not so for the fishermen, for an over-supply of food is bound to result in some choosy fish out there this summer. No longer will those "lucky" fish have to settle for second best. Therefore, unless the fisherman is on the ball, there's an excellent chance of some fishless days looming on the horizon.

With this in mind, I believe it now becomes extremely important to know exactly how to entice those fussy fluke to the hook. If you don't agree, let me ask this: if our glum author is correct, why should any self-respecting fluke seize a baited hook when all about is a glut of natural food—all within easy reach whenever the mood urges? Think about it.

How does one present bait to a gluttonous fluke, perhaps one which has never had such easy pickings before in its life? There's only one answer: by using proper fishing methods.

So let us see where that leads.

Actually, each aspect of fluke fishing has its own precise requirements. However, because shore fishing is indulged in by so many anglers today, and differs so markedly from boat fishing, we'll start with that.

Occasional "deadline" catches notwithstanding, the successful shore fisherman is the one who does much casting and keeps his bait moving—always! The reason is simple. Because it is the nature of the beast, fluke **prefer** a moving bait. You will never entice a choosy fluke with a dead line! You've got to keep that bait hopping along the bottom if you want to score. Therefore, the farther the angler is able to cast, the greater the area of fish-producing ground he will cover as he jigs and reels his bait back to the shore line.

To accomplish this, proper tackle is necessary. The use of spinning tackle and one ounce sinkers for shore fishing is, in my estimation, "iffy" at best. I don't mean you won't catch fluke with this light stuff, but there are certain disadvantages that go along with its use.

For instance, say you are fishing within sight of an ocean inlet (always a good bet for fluke—especially in June), and say a four or five pounder nails your bait. Fine: good for you. There's no question that if you keep your head and handle the fish carefully, you'll land it with light spinning tackle.

But what happens should gobs of drifting seaweed entangle both fish and terminal tackle while reeling in? This, too, is a common occurrence around ocean inlets because it is in these places where tidal currents are apt to become stronger than normal at times.

The answer to that is also simple: either the light line will part from excessive strain, or you will be unable to land your fish without first laying your rod down and engaging in a bit of handlining. If you expect to go through this every time you fish these areas, you might as well start out with a drop line and save yourself the strain and pain that follows.

This always possible sad state of affairs is why you never see experienced fluke anglers fishing these tough spots with light spinning tackle. They insist on medium weight stuff—either spinning or conventional—with spinning much preferred because of the easily achieved casting distance it offers the average fisherman. A word to the wise is certainly sufficient in this respect.

As noted, the best way to connect with fluke when shore fishing is to do plenty of casting and I'll tell you right now it does become tiring. To overcome this, it is best to balance your rod with a good quality matching reel. Don't hedge on quality. Cheap reels, no matter how eye-appealing, have a nasty habit of giving up the ghost just when the action starts. And another thing: you'll never be able to get that smooth-flowing cast needed to get that bait out the required distance.

Therefore, be advised to buy a reel with a name you recognize, preferably one that is nationally advertised. You will never regret investing those few extra bucks. With good care and treatment, you can expect such a reel to give many years of excellent service. This is what you pay for. Avoid those so-called "Hong Kong Specials" like the plague.

Fill that good reel with at least 100 yards of top grade fifteen or twenty pound test monofilament line—with twenty preferred. Don't skimp when purchasing your line. Good quality mono will more than pay for itself. It will last longer; it will not become overly brittle with hard use, nor will it easily chafe on rough bottoms.

These qualities may not mean much at the moment, but if sometime you are lucky enough to tie into a doormat, you'll have enough to keep you busy without worrying whether that "bargain" line is going to stand the gaff. I'll guarantee you will be glad you thought far enough ahead to spend those extra pennies. There is absolutely no substitute for good quality tackle.

When fishing the shores of bays and other sheltered areas where currents are nil, it is perfectly okay to use that light spinning stuff if you wish. Don't use anything lighter than this ten pound stuff, however. Never overlook the fact that large fluke prowl areas well up in the bays and creeks. I saw an eleven pounder taken in Shinnecock Canal several summers ago, and I've taken my share of good sized fish when tramping the shores of Island Park's Schaeffer's Creek and Reynold's Channel areas.

While on the subject of large fluke—or even smaller ones for that matter—don't forget a net! You may be able to beach fluke when fishing a gently-shelving shore line, but your chances of lifting one onto a pier, high creek bank, jetty, or bulkhead with any degree of success is always doubtful.

Sure, fluke can be landed without a net—if you are lucky and the fishing gods smile your way. I've done it many times myself. In fact, there was a period of years while shore and skiff fishing when I felt a net was unnecessary. But one day while fishing from a small private pier on Schaeffer's Creek, I was forever cured of that foolishness.

Do you know what a seventeen pound fluke looks like? Especially when lying flat out on the surface of the water just waiting to be netted? Do you know what it means not being able to land that monster because of the lack of a net? Do you know how you'd feel ten minutes after this if you had to watch a neighboring fisherman catch that very same fish with your parted terminal tackle still trailing from its jaws?

No? I'll tell you exactly how you'd feel. Sad—very sad. Even now, many years later, the remembrance rankles enough to want to kick myself from here to Jericho. Don't let it happen to you!

Next week we'll discuss boat fishing and I'll tell you about an easy method you can use to find fluke in the bays.

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Surf Side with Gerald Hahn

TOWD POINT

Towd Point is one of those places that is a natural for attracting a variety of species of fish: predators and bottom dwellers. A deep indentation of land here creates a natural channel where water moves rapidly to and from Peconic Bay. At the channel's entrance, a rip exists where bait fish become trapped in swirling currents and are easy prey for blues, stripers, and especially weakfish. The water's depth changes rapidly from the shallows of the rip and the beach facing Peconic Bay to a fast dropoff within the channel. The land/water configuration at Towd Point reminds me of other spots in Long Island; e.g., an area in the Glen Cove-Lattingtown vicinity or Louse Point near East Hampton. But if you read the LIF weekly fishing reports, you will know that this spot—located between Cow Neck and Rose Grove—is a prime weakfish area during the spring for the small boat fisherman. It can also produce for the surf caster. Towd Point is located off Noyac Road as you head north from Southampton to Shelter Island. Although there are many private homes in this area, parking does not seem to be a problem at this time. In fact, you have two choices, and hardly any walking (which unfortunately, discourages too many surfcasters from prime fishing spots). As you drive along winding Towd Road to the Point (about one-quarter mile), you will cross a small bridge followed by a concrete pier on your left. Many fishermen park here and fish the bottom. If it is not crowded, some may cast artificials from the pier because it is situated at about the middle of the channel's length. If you drive a little further, the road dead-ends at the beach and you can park here, as well. Walk onto the beach and head a few hundred feet to the left; the entrance to the channel is here. (See diagram.) Remember, though, that many people use this beach for picnics and swimming, especially during the summer. If you give them plenty of elbow room and clean up, there should be no problem.

During the spring, May and June, weakfish move in and out of the channel. The best fishing time for this species is a little before or after the turn of either tide—particularly at dawn or dusk. Soft plastic lures resembling shrimp, in fluorescent red or amber and tipped with a strip of squid, are the most popular. Cast to the left of the rip on the outgoing tide and to the right of it on the incoming. Let it drift toward the rip momentarily, and then begin to "hop" it along the bottom with periodic twitches of the rod and a medium retrieve. Frequently, I have done better with other lures; e.g., small swimmers and white, lead-head bucktails tipped with squid. For the baitcaster, a high-low rig with squid and/or sand worms will also take weaks. I brought in a nice six pound weakfish on such a rig one morning in early June while flounder fishing.

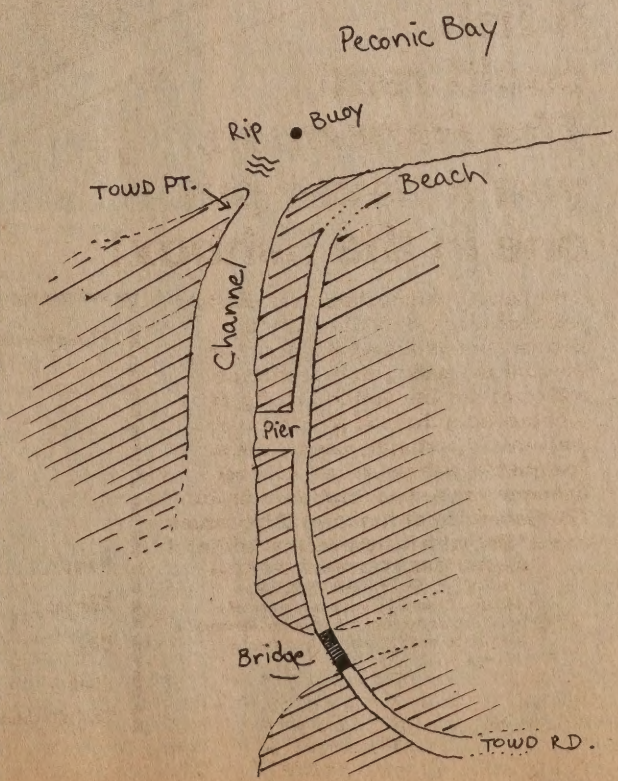
At this time of the season (August), most of the weaks are gone, but school sized blues and an occasional striper are replacing them. At a tidal change, watch for showing bait fish between the Point, the rip, and the nearest buoy to the right. By all means, working in the channel itself can be equally productive. Metal lures or small poppers and swimmers in blue, green, or black with white or silvery undersides, are the favored artificials. Don't be afraid to experiment with eelies, whiptails, and jointed plugs if they have produced for you elsewhere. Here, again, a bucktail with pork rind or squid may work better when other lures fail to produce near the surface.

For weakfish, I would consider a medium action, seven to eight foot spinning rod with matching reel and ten pound test. At this time of the season, go a little heavier for all-purpose use, to a light nine foot surf rod with matching reel and fifteen to twenty pound test. It all depends on the kind of fishing you want to do. I like to combine plugging with bottom fishing which can be very good at Towd Point; in May and June, flounders are caught here. This season, it peaked in mid-June. I went from half a dozen over a weekend (in April) to twenty in a couple of hours. Thereafter, a lull begins as sand porgies replace the flounders. Most of these are finger-sized, bait stealers. July is not good for bottom fishing here. By early August, the porgies reach keeper size and can be caught into the fall, as long as warm weather continues. A few tautog are caught on the bottom here, in the spring and fall; but there are other better, places to try for this species. August also marks the arrival—in full force,—of snappers which can be caught, readily, from the pier or anywhere in the channel where the water is calmer.

For bottom fishing at the channel's entrance, a three ounce bank sinker is necessary. You have to go heavier because of the current: watch your line. The bait (worms are best for flounders and porgies) should be checked regularly here. Although the bottom is not particularly rock-strewn, there are weedy areas which will cover the rig like a salad. I prefer a high-low, three hook rig when fishing the bottom here because it does not rule out the possibility of catching a predator. A two-hook tandem rig with baitholders or Chestertowns and the sinker no more than three inches below takes care of the bottom. Then, I tie almost any medium sized hook—for tautog, fluke, blues, weaks or bass—with a two inch snelled leader which is set up a little over two feet from the bottom rig, by means of a three-way swivel. This prevents the top hook from tangling with the bottom rig. During the spring and early summer, a squid strip works best on this hook; it also helps to attract bottom feeders. Later on in the season, I may switch to a snapper or other fish fry. During the fall, live-lining eels or almost any fish fry on a bass rig with float, is worth trying—especially at night. Try working it both on top and near the bottom of the water. First, rig up without a sinker. Then use a fish finder rig so that the bait can move about the bottom more readily. During this period, chunk baits (bunker, mackerel, butterfish, etc.) should also be considered, using a twelve inch wire leader and the sinker tied six to eight inches below. Any of the above can catch blues or bass.

You might consider fishing this area with two rods, as I do. One rod is rigged for bottom fishing according to the

(Continued on page 47.)



Party Boat Purists

by Herb Buch

Head boats or party boats, as they are called in our area, are a popular institution on all of our coasts. Saltwater fishing grounds are wide open to the weather and become rough as a breeze freshens. A very large segment of the saltwater fraternity is willing to pay its fare to fish in comfort and safety on such craft, which are large enough to handle unpredictable weather. Rates are within season and the angler will usually experience an enjoyable outing.

Most fishing on this type of boat is heavy tackle bait dunking, with specific exceptions such as working a banana for bluefish in the northeast, or a jig for barracuda in the southeast. A new twist has developed on Long Island where boatloads of anglers head out on the briny equipped almost to a man with freshwater spinning outfits. What is more surprising is that they are not out for panfish, but for a gamester which reaches ten or more pounds in weight and may take ten or fifteen minutes to land on the tackle used. Just as surprising as the prevalence of light freshwater tackle is the almost unanimous choice of artificial lures as terminal tackle, with plastic shrimp lures in fluorescent pink the majority choice.

Party boat anglers are not reputed to be light tackle fans, nor are they inclined to practice the art of repeatedly casting and retrieving a lure, so why do we find boatloads of anglers thus equipped leaving from several Long Island ports every day in May and June. In addition to the regular daytime trips, many of these boats make a second evening trip and one enterprising captain was advertising a dawn excursion last season. The answer to all this is a beautiful game fish with a soft mouth called the weakfish. These same gamesters are also known as squeteague or as gray trout in other parts of their range. Stiff rods tend to tear the lures out of the mouths of these fish; so even the rental rods on the boats are light freshwater types, although the line furnished is heavier than most regulars would want to use.

Lures seem to outfish bait most of the time, so everyone gives them a try. What is even better for the average angler is the fact that the boat drift fishes, and you can drag your lure, while jigging it slowly and have a good chance to take fish.

That big cooler guarantees grade A fish flesh after a warm day.

But fishing results are consistent in that a minority of anglers take most of the fish, and the fish usually go to the more energetic person who works for them. No one can predict who will catch the largest fish on any day, but there are many ways of increasing your chances for a good catch, and that is what I intend to explain.

The weakfishing that I am referring to seems to be a spawning run that invades Long Island waters in late April or early May of each year. The large fish that make up most of this run are loaded with spawn and seem to largely desert the bay areas after their reproductive urge has been satisfied. This makes the fishery a limited one, and it is concentrated mainly in two large bay complexes: Great South Bay and Peconic Bay. After spawning, most of the large fish seem to search for food off the outer beaches of the south shore of Long Island. There are small schools of these big ones that stay in the bays or inlets to feed on mossbunkers, snapper bluefish, and other good sized bait fish, but after the spawning run, most of the weakfish found in the bays will be smaller fish in the one to four pound range.

Some years, when the spawning has been successful, the bays will be loaded with tiny fish by late summer. New York State has a twelve-inch size limit to protect these youngsters in the hopes of maintaining the runs. Although large amounts of fish seem to be present along the East Coast, fishing in the local bays has dropped from its recent peaks when anyone could produce a large catch.

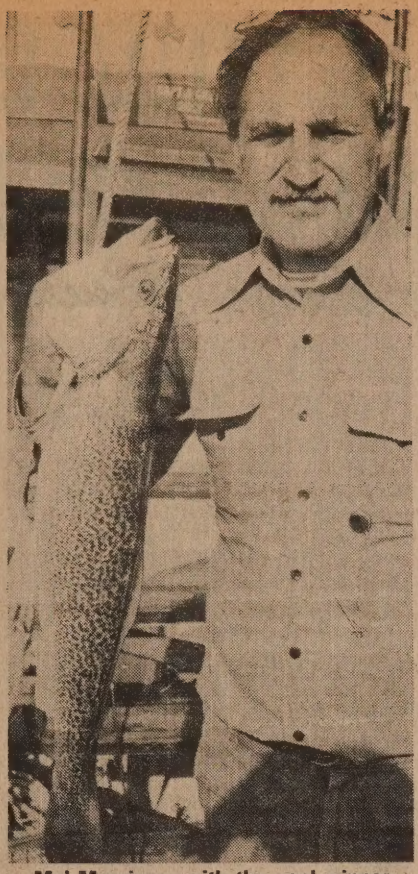
Of the two locations, Great South Bay is less than fifty miles from the

densely populated New York City Metropolitan Area, and therefore, receives most of the fishing pressure. Captree State Park offers the largest selection of party boats in this area, along with ample parking in exchange for a modest fee. There are not only many party boats, but charter boats; a well-equipped bait and tackle shop and a restaurant with an outdoor dining area.

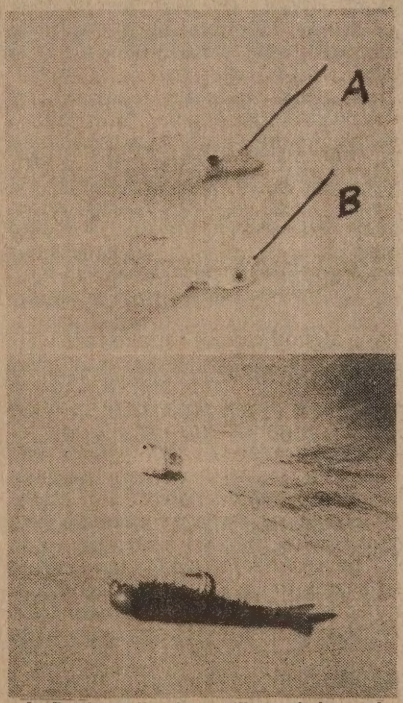
Since all of the fishing is done from a drifting boat, my choice would be one that is not too crowded. This allows you the freedom to shift from side-to-side, depending upon the direction of the drift. You will also have more room to play a large fish, which can make good long runs on light tackle. If you have to choose one spot at the rail, the best spot on the boat is the bow. This location allows you to fan your casts to cover a ninety degree quadrant, which means that your lure can transverse relatively virgin territory compared to fishermen in other parts of the boat. The flare of the bow itself also makes it much easier to perform the underhanded flip cast which is a necessity for general safety on a crowded vessel. A third advantage of the bow position is the opportunity to work your lure in various patterns, in relation to the line of the drift. This will produce different actions in your lure in addition to what you do with your rod or reel.

The captains alternate the drifts so that both sides of the boat will have a chance at the leading and the trailing positions. Sometimes, one of these positions will be better than the other. For instance, on a very fast drift, it is hard to keep a light lure on the bottom from the trailing or downstream side of the boat. Casting from the leading edge of the boat on this same drift will have your lure on the bottom by the time you can begin to reel, and then you can jig it back to the boat with assurance that it is always near the bottom. Many captains keep their engines idling while they drift, because the turbulence of the screw stirs up the bottom mud in these shallow waters and exposes lots of bait. When this tactic is attracting fish, the people on the trailing rail of the boat need only drop their jigs to the bottom and jig them a few times to take fish. Those on the other side have to be careful, as their lines will drift under the boat.

Excepting dawn and dusk, most of the fish will be taken down near the bottom. The longer that you can keep your lure down there, the better your chances of taking fish. There are two procedures that will help you to do this. One is to cast as far as possible to produce a longer retrieve. Most shrimp-tail jigs come rigged with the flat side of the plastic facing away from the point of the hook. Since the jig casts with that side headed away from you, it will cut the distance that you can cast. Take the shrimp-tail off the jig and turn it over so that the rounded back part is away from the hook and your casting distance will improve. A heavier lead head would also help, but this affects the natural action of the lure and may adversely affect its appearance to the fish. Lighter line will increase casting distance, but do not go below six pound test (I prefer eight), because of the crowded conditions. When your lure hits the water, touch your finger to the spool, and watch the line until it goes slack before beginning your retrieve. When it goes slack, it means that the lure has hit bottom.



Mel Messinger with the pool winner. Notice the nail clipper on his shirt. Cutting back your line from time to time helps to avoid breaking off the big ones.



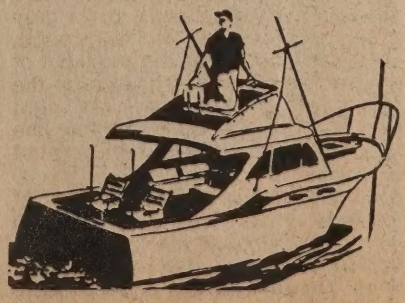
A. Bucktail jig that will catch lots of weeds. B. Bucktail jig that will let the weeds slide off as you jig. C. Bucktail jig that takes fish well if the water is not weedy. D. Shrimp tail rigged with round side down for distance in casting.

The other procedure to increase productivity, is to minimize fouling of your lure by the eel grass, which is often abundant. Choose a jig head with the line eye right at the tip of the lead head and most weeds will slide right down past the lure as you move it through the water.

As I mentioned before, shrimp-tail jigs are the most common choice of lures, although bucktail jigs are also very good. The three-eighths or one-half ounce sizes seem to work best and the favorite color is fluorescent pink. If things are slow, try white or amber shrimp. The pool fish taken by Mel Messinger in the photo was taken on a white shrimp. On some days, a strip of fresh squid attached to the hook of the jig makes a difference. The captain or mates will steer you onto the best current technique. However, when all else fails, use your own imagination, as these fish will take most types of lures at some time or other.

When you get a hit, set the hook and yell "fish on." This will alert your neighbors to avoid casting over your line, and it will bring a mate with a landing net with a long handle. Do not rush the fight, but follow the fish if it runs along the length of the boat. Letting a big fish tire itself far out, prevents a lot of tangles when you get it close to the boat.

It's a good idea to bring a large cooler for your catch, with plenty of ice, because the weather is usually warm and it is a shame to let good eating fish deteriorate in the hot sun. If you have never taken a saltwater game fish on light tackle, plan on some weakfishing—Great South Bay style. The water is calm, the boats clean and steady, and the mates helpful. All that you have to do is keep that lure working at the right depth and you will become an addict.



Reformation of the Fisherman's Wife

by Eileen Hession

During the first year I was married my husband bought a boat. So during that first year—so vital to newly-weds—when we should have been getting to know each other, Pete was getting to know his new Mako.

When Pete first spoke of buying a boat, I was delighted, envisioning myself having little picnics at obscure beaches; serving daquiris to guests on the upper deck; spending weekends at Fire Island water skiing, and—at the very least—getting a perfect tan.

I got a hint of how wrong I was when we went to buy the boat. He already knew he wanted the Mako and brought me shopping simply because it was the proper thing to do (after all, it was a joint bank account now).

We arrived at the boat yard and oh! how I laughed at his foolish choice. I explained, after a quick look through the showroom, that there was so much more available for the same price: cute little cabins, plush carpeting, soft vinyl lounging seats, and—best of all—porta-potties.

Pete took five minutes to explain to me how he needed a deck with 360° of fishing space, and that there was no need for any kind of shelter; and he even pointed out the luxurious extra that came with the boat—teak rod holders. Then he signed the papers (mortgage?) and the boat was ours (ours?).

First day out, the boat had to be "broken in," so we drove slowly through a very cold, very choppy Jones Inlet—back and forth, up and down. I got seasick after the first half hour. "Well, now you'll feel better," Pete lied. And to add insult to injury, "You'll really start to enjoy this."

I begged and pleaded with him to take me home. He ignored me. I got so desperate that I considered jumping overboard. I thought that he'd have to take me home or I'd catch pneumonia. I've since realized what a ridiculous plan this was. He wouldn't have even noticed I was gone.

The payments on the boat were almost $200 a month. Pete felt that if he only went out one day a weekend (as I would've liked), it cost him $50 a trip. For that price he could charter a boat. "In order to save money," he explained, "I'll have to go out at least every Saturday and Sunday." As the summer progressed, Pete would sometimes average less than $10 per trip by going out every night after work. He felt this was a tremendous saving and prided himself on his thrift. He did not, however, consider the money for bait or gas, or the money he was docked for being late to work three days a week.

Well, I was determined not to become a "fishing widow" and so continued weekend after weekend to join Pete on his fishing trips. The weather got warmer and the swells got lower and I learned that salted pretzels and Entemann's coffee cake were better than Dramamine for preventing sea sickness (though not as good for the waistline). I'd rise at six, put on my long johns, grab my fishing rod (my birthday present!), and go out to the boat which was in the canal right behind our apartment. (It was spotlighted at night for security and many nights I'd wake to see Pete staring (longingly?) out the bedroom window...our honey moon was over!).

At first, I was not terribly serious about fishing. Depending upon the season, I would either be huddled in a corner of the boat for warmth or lying on the ice chest working on an even tan. When Pete told me to check my bait, I'd say, "If God wants me to catch a fish I will, bait or no bait." This would infuriate Pete as he couldn't stand anyone who didn't work at fishing. He'd warn me to hold my rod correctly or I'd lose it to a fish. However, since there was nothing I would rather see than some monstrous fish attacking my rod, I always held it carelessly. I tried inviting another couple along to keep me from dying of boredom, but it never worked. Either the girl was a seasoned fisherman—started with her daddy at age three—or she had never fished before and enthusiastically begged for Pete's assistance, forming a sharp contrast with my attitude.

I should say here that neither Pete nor I eat any fish except shellfish. When he brought home a big catch, he gave it to grateful neighbors. We soon learned though, that deals could be made with the local fish market and restaurants. This was the incentive I needed to become serious about my fishing. When our catch was large enough, we'd trade it for a lobster dinner.

As great as my love for lobsters was, so then was my new enthusiasm for fishing. I'd rise before dawn; I'd ignore my seasickness—hell, I'd even bait my own hook. And I got pretty good, too. I knew all the best spots; I could talk tackle with the best of 'em, and I could unhook a sea robin before you could bat an eye. But no matter how much I learned, I couldn't keep up with Pete.

After five or six hours I was ready to go home: not Pete. He was a fanatic. The hours on the boat got longer and longer. He'd leave the house at 5 AM and return at 10 PM. Needless to say, I no longer went out with him. But then unless it was to fish, we no longer went out together at all. How could we? It was impossible for him to get to a party on time when he was still on the boat. A few times he'd make a special effort and we'd arrive somewhere an hour or two late. Then he'd fall asleep. Never mind the noise, the lights, the crowd, the band, or the fact that he was standing up—he'd fall asleep.

Well, with the hours the poor guy was keeping, you couldn't blame him, right? Wrong! I blamed him, and I yelled, and I ranted and raved, until finally, he started promising to be home earlier. "I'll be home for dinner," he'd say....and much later, "but I **like** to eat dinner at 10:30." When I pinned him down to an hour, he'd always "forget" about it and be late.

I don't want to exaggerate his lateness. In truth, there were only two times Pete was late—if there were fish or if there weren't. He'd say, "When I caught the first bass I knew there had to be more around." ...or... "How could I come home empty-handed?"

By the time our marriage entered its second fishing season, I decided something had to be done. I reviewed the previous year and saw that none of my plans had worked. Not only was I unable to keep Pete off the boat, I wasn't even getting him home for dinner. I had begged him; threatened him ("then don't bother coming back"), and bribed him ("stay home today and I won't nag you tomorrow"). I tried luring him with gourmet food (cold by the time he ate it), with entertainment (he'd rather clean a reel or swab a deck), and with my sex appeal (snore). I even tried ignoring him, but he welcomed the silence.

Finally, I gave him a dose of his own medicine. Just before he arrived home, I left and went to the movies (alone to avoid my friends' pity). I started for home after two double features, at 1 AM. I thought for sure

he'd be at least a little concerned by this time and only hoped that he didn't have the police out looking for me. At home, I found him at the dining room table, sound asleep. When I woke him, he asked if I had a good time.

Something had to be done to save our marriage and the only thing left was to join him on the boat again. I made elaborate plans for surviving a fifteen hour day on the water. I packed tons of food, hot and cold drinks, a book (though reading usually made me seasick), suntan oil to attract the sun, suntan cream to repel it, a hat for the sun, a scarf for my hair, a beach towel, a carton of cigarettes, and extras of everything. I dressed in a bathing suit with long johns, shorts, jeans, t-shirt, turtleneck, nylon jacket, and sweat shirt over it and carried along rain gear. I would've brought along a radio if it was allowed, and needlework if not for the sea spray. I was prepared.

Once aboard I stayed out of Pete's way and didn't upset his concentration with conversation (it seemed no one ever talked on that boat!). I checked my own bait, untangled my own snares, and unhooked my own catch. I learned how to cast and how to listen for bunker. I began to recognize the boat names of the other "regulars" on the water, and knew who would share tips and spots with us. I started really listening to weather reports. I learned how far to let out the trolling lines, and suddenly, I could fillet a flounder. Of all my accomplishments, the greatest was being able to answer nature's call, no matter what the weather or how many passengers aboard, by donning a huge poncho, grabbing a bucket and keeping my balance—all without blushing.

At first I hated it all, but day-by-day, I started to like that sticky salty sunburned feeling I had, and at the end of the day my exhaustion was exceeded only by my feeling of accomplishment. By George, I liked it! I really did.

The whole summer was spent fishing. Neighbors would come to admire our catch whenever we came in. I still wouldn't go for shark, but I did everything else. We had classic days where every dropped line produced a fish. I caught a weakfish larger than I'd ever seen before and the boats around us applauded. We caught (and traded) hundreds of fluke. We stocked neighbors' freezers with bluefish. Most exciting, I caught my first striper. It was 10 PM and we were on our way home with an empty fish box when we decided to troll. What a hit! What a fight! I landed him unassisted and even got my picture in The Long Island Fisherman. It put into perspective the nights Pete stayed out so late.

What a summer we had! I quit fishing at the end of October and Pete finally put the boat up in January. Spring came: the boat was back in the water, and though I thought I had overcome the problem, I was suddenly getting seasick again. It didn't take long to discover that it wasn't seasickness—but morning sickness. My fishing days were over. I tried a few times, but I just couldn't take the sun, the swells, or the smell of the bait. I was a fishing widow again, only fatter this time.

The baby was born the following March, on the weekend Pete planned on putting the boat in the water, and I knew I'd miss another season. Who would babysit for fourteen hours starting at 6 AM? How could I rise at five, when I had been up for feedings at midnight and four? The only thing I unhooked that summer was diaper pins; the only thing I caught was the legendary cold.

I'd like to end by saying that since the baby's arrival Pete has become a new man. He still fishes, but only goes out three hours a day every other weekend. I'd like to say that—but, of course, it's not true. He did offer to babysit one weekend when the baby was three months old. But when he told me that he took her fishing, I wouldn't allow him to babysit again.

Damn it! I'll bet that's how he planned it.

Depend on DuPont Stren®.

When you have Du Pont *Stren* monofilament on your reel, you have everything a fishing line can give you...all in one line.

Du Pont makes *Stren* durable. Tie a good knot in *Stren* and it will be as strong as the unknotted line. Work your lure around rocks or jetties. *Stren* will stand up to the nicks and scrapes and still be ready to do battle with a toothy bluefish. Set your hook, and the controlled stretch and impact resistance of *Stren* work for you.

Du Pont makes *Stren* controllable. In any weather, *Stren* has just the right amount of limpness for easy handling and casting. And the patented glow of *Stren* lets you see your line, from dawn to dusk. So you have precise control when you have to cast quickly into a school of marauding blues. On a boat, whether you're trolling, drifting or fighting a fish, you have the control you need to keep your line clear of everybody else's.

Try a spool of *Stren*. Clear/Blue, bright Golden or high contrast Orange. When the blues are out there, make every cast count.

IT'S THE ONLY LINE YOU NEED. DU PONT

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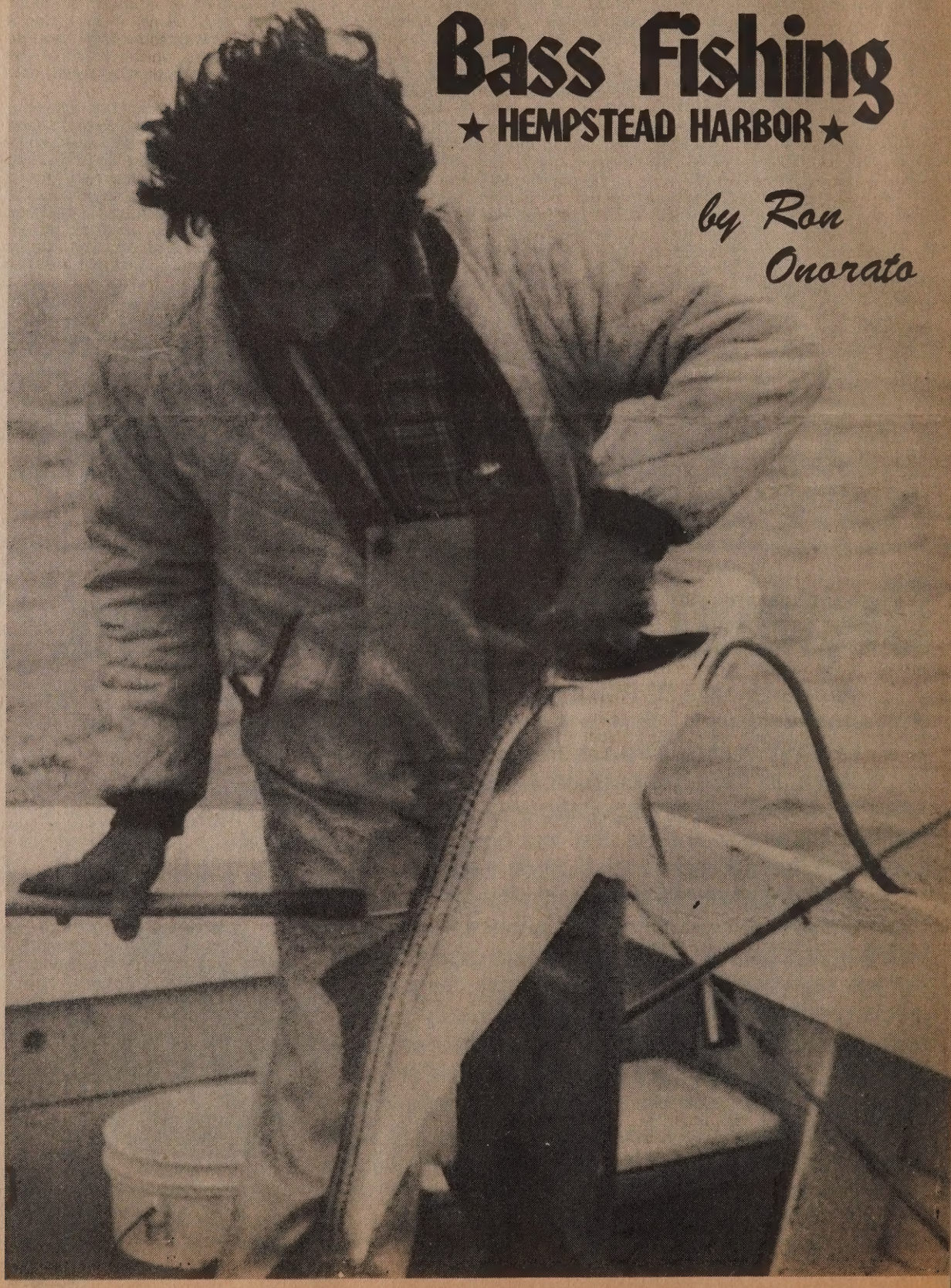
Western L.I. Sound Bass Fishing

★ HEMPSTEAD HARBOR ★

by Ron Onorato



Whenever bass fishermen get talking about some of the best places to go bass fishing, places like Montauk, Sandy Hook, and Cape Cod always seem to head the list. If someone were to mention Hempstead Harbor as a prime striper ground, they would be laughed at. Yet for those fishermen in the know, Hempstead Harbor is one of those places; as is Eaton's Neck, where the regular fishermen keep everything quiet. Publicity is avoided like the plague, and seldom does the word leak out that there is any action at all. This gives the appearance that Hempstead Harbor no longer gives up its striped bass. Nothing could be further from the truth; Hempstead Harbor is still one of the better striped bass fishing grounds in western Long Island Sound. Admittedly, the past few years have been poor, but this doesn't apply just to this area—the entire Sound has been quiet. When and if the striped bass have a good year class, Hempstead Harbor will be right in there with the rest of the better striped bass feeding grounds.

By its very nature, Hempstead Harbor is bass country from Sands Point on the west, to Matinecock Point on the east. There are natural boulder formations, man-made jetties, and tide rips throughout the entire harbor area that are primary bass attractors. From an initial survey of the harbor, many would conclude that just about every inch of it should hold fish. This is what makes this place so difficult for a beginner: every place looks do darn promising, that it would take weeks to learn. Actually, ninety-nine percent of the harbor is a dead area, with the bass favoring very small pieces of ground that most fishermen run past. Of course, at the height of the spring and fall migration, the fish aren't found on structures, but rather on open ground pursuing whatever bait fish is available. This was especially true when schools of small bass were around. Now with the scarcity of fish of all sizes, the bass fisherman must be keenly aware of bottom structures, tide stages, moon phases, and so many other variables. You can be fishing over a past bass producer, using proven techniques, and not take any fish because there aren't any fish there at that particular location at that particular time.

Unfortunately, Hempstead Harbor has undergone some pretty drastic changes for the worst, especially in some of its interior areas. The Lilco powerhouse at the southeast corner of the bay, with its associated activities, has just about destroyed whatever salt marshes were left in the harbor. On the western side of the harbor, a concrete and gravel company has pretty well taken care of things over there. The outer edges of the harbor, on both the western and eastern sides, are still in pretty good shape and it is these areas that produce the most fish.

Things get under way here as early as the first week of March. The powerhouse in the harbor, similar to the Northport plant, has a hot water discharge that held winter-over bass in its warm water currents. Compared to the Northport plant, it is really small scale, but it holds a few fish nonetheless. It is these winter-over bass that give the worm trollers their first shot at some action. As the first week of April rolls around, the first of the Hudson River fish make their presence known. By early May, some of the Chesapeake Bay bass will have found their way around the tip of Long Island and into the harbor. The first arrivals are usually the smaller bass, with the bigger fish showing up sometime around the end of May.

Hempstead Harbor is one of those unique areas where you can plug, troll, cast and fish live bait with just about equally good results. In the early part of the season, casting is the most productive method, as is worm trolling. Later on in the season when bigger fish show up, swimming live baits and nighttime fishing under the big moons are the producers. After the hot summer months have passed, and the fish are getting ready for their southern migration, casting and diamond jigging will take fish.

Worm trolling used to be the big thing up here, but for the past few years, only a few local fishermen bother to go through the motions. Most of them now spend their time worm fishing in Little Neck Bay and related areas which still are a little more consistent.

If there is a prolonged mild spell around the beginning of March, the winter-over bass begin to move out of the far reaches of the harbor and can provide an occasional catch. The eastern side of the harbor stretching from the Glen Cove jetty on the north, to the town beach on the south, will usually provide some of the earliest action. This is generally hit-and-miss fishing; but for so early in the season, it's the best bet.

Before going any further, anyone interested in getting any idea at all about the layout of the harbor should get hold of Nautical Chart 12364 and study the Hempstead Harbor profile; otherwise you'll be shooting in the dark. This same nautical chart will help you out with some of the western Sound areas in which you might be fishing. Until you thoroughly learn an area, this nautical chart is an indispensable item.

The first or second week of May sees the start of the serious daytime fishing activity. Depending on various factors such as weather, bait supply, etc., good daytime fishing should run through the month of June. Nighttime fishing is best during the summer months, starting with the full moon of June. By mid-September, the fish once again begin their daytime feeding sprees. By mid-October, much of the inshore fishing is over, but there is always the chance of getting in on some deep water fishing action as schools of bass, migrating back to the Hudson, pass through the area.

The water where most of your fishing activity will be concentrated is basically very shallow; this directly affects what sort of lures you will be using. Very simply, three or four different types of lures are all that you'll need for just about any sort of casting. The tins are out because the water is too shallow and they sink a little too quickly. Deep-running plugs are out for the same reason—they run too deep in the shallow water.

Top water surface swimmers should be the number one lure in your bag. These plugs are the most consistent fish getters throughout the season, only losing their effectiveness when the fish are on sand eels. During the evening hours, the top

(Continued on next page.)

Phil Forelli prys a *Tri-Fin Eel* from the mouth of a twenty-pound striped bass taken at Matinecock Point.

water swimming plug has no equal when it comes to stirring up fish among the rocky shore line. The Danny top water swimming plug is by far the most effective plug you can use. These plugs are manufactured by the Lupo-Sea Wolf Company and come in three sizes. You should have at least a couple of each size in different colors. For overall use, the middle-sized plug (about five inches long) is the workhorse of the bunch. All white and all blue colored plugs seem to be the best.

Right behind the surface plugs are the popping plugs. These surface shakers are very good at instigating fish to hit when they might not otherwise strike a lure. Whenever I fish a new area, I start off with the popping plug to see what sort of life is around. If a fish boils after the popper and doesn't take it, I'll work the area with different lures. Sooner or later that fish will end up in the boat. Popping plugs work best around the dawn and dusk periods, and rapidly lose their effectiveness when the sun gets up over the horizon.

If there is nothing showing on the plugs, the bucktail jig gets its use. While many wire line trollers use big, heavy jigs, the caster needs jigs that are primarily lightweight. I've never used a jig over an ounce in this area, and have found 3/8, 1/2, and 5/8 ounce jigs to be the best. These light jigs are usually fished straight, although at times a strip of pork rind is used. White is about the only color you have to use. You can use light spinning tackle, or a bait casting outfit with equally good success.

The last lure amongst the heavy hitters is the floating Rebel plug. This thing is a devil to cast, especially on windy days; but sometimes this is the only thing that the fish will touch. Both blue and black colors are effective.

When the fish are heavy on sand eels—and with the glut of sand eels this will be often—you can use the sand eel-bucktail jig which was described in a past article, the WhipTail jig by Tri-Fin, or the newly developed Sand Eel Jig by the same company. This new item is a very close facsimile to the real thing. It is about two inches long and comes in a variety of colors, with blue and black being the best. This new lure looks like the best sand eel imitation on the market yet.

I'll limit the bait fishing department very briefly to the use of live bunkers. Much has been written already about all aspects of this, so there's no use in going over it again. Quite simply, when the bunkers are present in the harbor area, so are the bass and blues. During the peak of the bunker populations, the harbor was the scene of some wild bass and bluefishing. The schools of blues would cut through the bunkers on the surface, and the bass would be underneath them gobbling up the pieces of bunker as they fell to the bottom. Those same big bass would feed on the bunkers at the mouth of the harbor and then return to the rocks after feeding. Although well satiated, those big cows very seldom passed up a freshly snagged bunker with a treble hook in its lips. When the bunkers are scarce, so are the big bass. While the sand eels may provide food for the small and medium size fish, those big cows are just too lazy to go running around chasing after the sand eels.

All right, let's get down to some of the spots themselves.

Motts Point: This place is perhaps the finest place in the entire area as an overall producer of both big and small fish. It is a place for the casters, and a place for the bunker swimmers. You'll often see Motts Point mentioned in both the newspapers and magazine as a place where the bass have been hitting. Motts is a big place, and only a small part of this area holds the fish. This is on the western side of the harbor and its northern edge is marked by the #6 bell buoy. On an ebbing tide, you'll see acres and acres of rocks and boulders just south of the bell. In-between the bell and shore line there is a small reef that comes up just a few feet higher than the surrounding area. Since most of the water is less than ten feet deep, a recorder will not pick up this little hump. On the ebbing tide, the fish can be found on the western side of this piece. The incoming tide produces little on this piece. When the fish are heavy, they spread out off the reef and can be taken anywhere in the general area. Look for surface action around dusk and dawn and again on cloudy days. Any wind from a southerly quarter is fishable, but any sort of northerly wind tends to muck up the water.

As you head a little northwest from Motts Point, you'll see about a half-mile stretch of rocky shore line. If you feel energetic, you can plug this whole stretch and run into fish anywhere along the line. Pods of fish move up and down this stretch as they travel between Motts and Prospect Points.

Prospect Point: This point marks the westernmost edge of the harbor area. This area is a fairly large reef with some big boulders that run quite a bit out from the shore line. This is mostly a big fish producer. The big bass lie among the rocks and boulders and scoop up bergalls and blackfish on the flood tide as they come into the rocky area to feed. When bunkers are scarce, and you still want a shot at some big fish, try live-lining some baby blackfish. Very little action around the end of the ebb tide, with high water being the best time.

Week's Point Jetty: On the eastern side of the harbor lies a series of rock jetties. The easternmost of these structure is the Week's Point Jetty. This jetty gives you the best shot at some school fish. Even with the apparent lack of small bass, this area still gives up a fair quantity of tiny fish. On the flood tide, the bass seem to pocket the bait in-between the jetty and the shore line. The water is generally too shallow to fish at low tide. The bucktail jig works especially well in this area. On an east wind, the bait is pushed from the Sound side of the jetty into the pocket, and the bass are there waiting for them. This is one of the few spots in the entire Long Island Sound area that actually has its best fishing on an easterly breeze.

Matinecock Point: This is probably the largest area that holds fish and is a producer for both the caster and the troller. At the very tip of Matinecock Point, there is a crumbling cement seawall that is just about disintegrated. Like the other points, this area is extremely rocky. During the early seventies, that old cement seawall was the scene of some really wild action. Although the area is just a pale shadow of its former self, fish are still taken by casters from both the shore and boat. The area marks a fairly large shoal which is a good blackfish producer. The water change is very abrupt here, going from thirty to fifteen feet very quickly. A small rip is created by this sudden dropoff, and it is here that the trollers—who use lead core lines—take the most fish primarily on surgical tube lures. Around the change of tide periods, blind casting with top water surface swimmers will often draw fish off the bottom for a look. The rip is a couple of hundred feet long; so the entire length of it should be trolled before it is written off.

These spots are the larger and more consistent areas of the harbor. In-between these spots there are a few tiny pieces that will yield their fish, but aren't large enough to pinpoint precisely. If there was but one body of water in western Long Island Sound that you had to fish for bass, it would have to be Hempstead Harbor. The only ones who would be disappointed were those lucky fishermen who fished the area at the height of the striped bass populations and remember the days of acres of feeding bass, smashing plugs, and pouncing on bunkers. Still, the harbor has its occasional flurry of action, and for the persevering fisherman, the effort will not be a wasted one.

FISHERMAN TIPS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

THE RED SKIN OF AN ONION SLIPPED INTO YOUR MINNOW PAIL WILL COLOR THE BAIT FISH PINK! INDIANS USED THIS TRICK TO SCALP BASS.

GAS AND OIL TRANSFERRED FROM HANDS TO LURES ARE A SURE-FIRE WHAMMY ON FISH. WASH HANDS AFTER HANDLING MOTOR BEFORE HANDLING LURES.

A PLASTIC BLEACH JUG WITH A FIST-SIZED HOLE CUT OPPOSITE THE HANDLE MAKES A LEAK PROOF BAIT CONTAINER TO CARRY BY HAND OR FROM YOUR BELT.

A CAN FILLED WITH SAND WILL MAKE A SMALL STOVE OR LIGHT IF YOU SATURATE THE SAND WITH GAS OR OIL FROM YOUR OUTBOARD TANK. SAND ACTS AS A WICK... DRAWS FUMES THRU.

A KITCHEN TABLESPOON WITH NOTCHES CUT INTO BOTH ENDS MAKES A GOOD HOOK DISGORGER.

PLASTIC WORMS AND LURES ARE FINE ON THE END OF YOUR LINE. BUT IN HOT WEATHER CAN MELT ALL OVER YOUR TACKLE BOX. NEXT TIME PLACE THEM IN A JAR OF WATER OR PLASTC BAG.

USE ONLY ALUMINUM HARDWARE ON ALUMINUM BOATS. SCREWS AND BOLTS MADE OF STEEL OR OTHER METALS CAN CAUSE GALVANIC CORROSION IF MOISTURE IS PRESENT. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF CRAFT USED IN SALT WATER.

Brown Bombers & Silver Bullets

Spring Fishing for Cod and Pollack at Montauk

by Scott J. Simons

I can see myself now, some thirty years in the future—splashes of grey around my temples, a weather-beaten face from years on the water, drinking a cup of coffee and chewing in a $20 cigar. (I'm not rich, mind you—the cup of coffee thirty years from now will probably go for $50, which gives you an idea of the quality of the cigars I smolder.) In any case, I can see myself sitting in a local dock's gin mill with the rest of the "old-timers," listening to their tales of the greatest fishing trip there ever was. Throughout it all, I just sit there with a chum-eating grin on my face, never saying a word. They can talk all they want about the greatest fishing trip ever, I'm thinking to myself, but I was **on it!**

The greatest fishing trip I have ever been on—that's the only way I can think of describing the cod and pollack fishing last spring off Block Island. Truthfully, this is one of the few times that I have ever sat down to write about a fishing experience without the fear of exaggerating, because I feel that no matter what I write here could possibly convey how terribly exciting the fishing really was. The trip was a bus man's holiday for the staff of The Long Island Fisherman aboard Captain John DeMaio's charterboat Vivienne. Aboard were Rich Reina, the publisher; Stu "Bad Winds" Miller, who tries to sell advertising; myself and my friend, Frank. It was early May and we were aboard after John's invitation to take a shot at the "fantastic" fishing. I guess all of us working at the Fisherman become a little weary of "fantastic" fishing because that's usually the only kind that people call us up to talk about. But in this case, there was no exaggeration: in fact, the word "fantastic" proved to be somewhat of an understatement.

Huge schools of cod and pollack had been in the area known as Shark's Ledge, which is roughly south of Block Island, since around the middle of April. The number of fish was more than even the "old-timers" could remember, but even more impressive were their size. The Brown Bombers (codfish) started at fifteen pounds, with the average fish in the low twenties. And you could expect at least a few fish over thirty pounds in every catch—even a forty pound cow was nothing to write home about. The Silver Bullets (pollack) started at eighteen pounds, also averaged in the low twenties and thirty pound-plus fish weren't uncommon. And a new I.G.F.A. World Record was set for pollack on six-pound class line on Captain Phil Lewis' charterboat **Adios**. I'm sure that other records were set by fishermen who got caught up in the excitement and didn't realize they had a world record pollack in the box.

After almost a two-hour ride on a beautiful, flat-calm ocean, Captain DeMaio throttled down the boat and started watching the recorder for signs of fish. Reading nothing on the machine, we finally started to drift along with the Viking Star that was also fishing the area. John broke out the rods which were already rigged up with the cod and pollack special—an Ava diamond jig with a small tube from an umbrella rig attached to the line via a dropper loop about three feet above it. At the time, this rig was doing much better than the standard skimmer clam bait because the fish were feeding on the abundant schools of the largest sand eels I have ever seen. (More on this later.) As we started to drift, John showed each of us how to work the jig. Frank was the first to get the knack of it, pulling up a cod of about fifteen pounds that turned out to be one of the smallest fish of the day. The next half hour was uneventful, with everyone standing around staring at Stu Miller and waiting for him to get sick to break up the monotony. (When Stu gets sick, it's an event that sees everyone stop fishing to urge him on with the talk of gourmet food and an occasional puff of cigar smoke in his face.)

I was disturbed out of my "Miller-watching" by a

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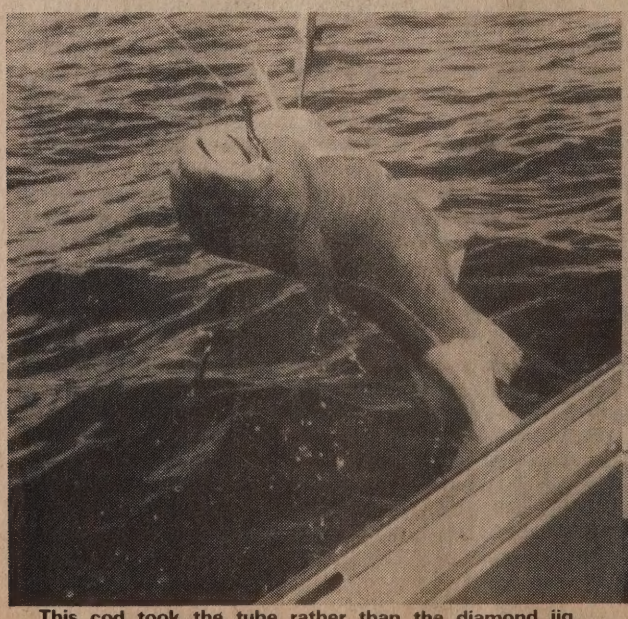
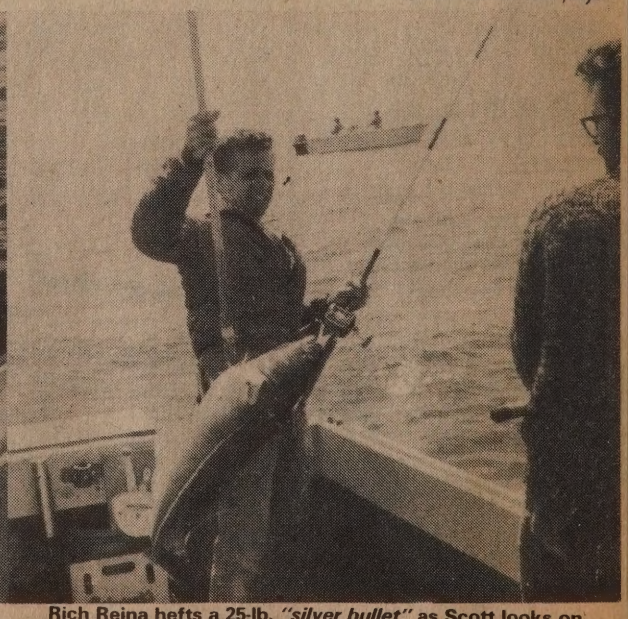
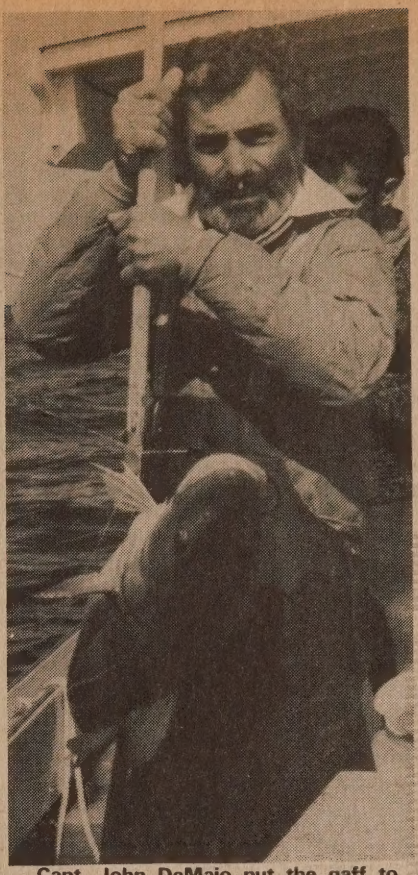


This cod took the tube rather than the diamond jig.



Rich Reina hefts a 25-lb. *"silver bullet"* as Scott looks on.

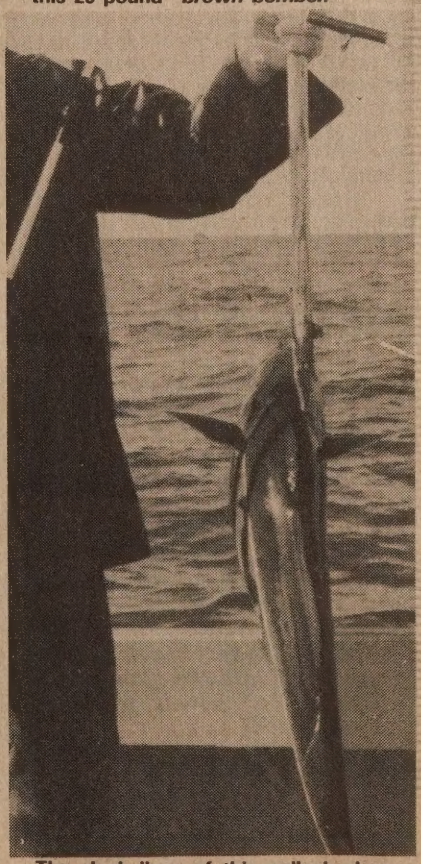
Stu Miller, left, and Scott hold 20-lb. class pollack as Viking Star watch.



Capt. John DeMaio put the gaff to this 25 pound *"brown bomber."*

Two at a time! Rich's rod bends with the weight of a double-header.

The fish filled the fish box, a large barrel and overflowed to cover the deck.



The sleek lines of this pollack show why they're called *"silver bullets."*

slight bump on the jig. Raising the rod tip sharply to set the hook, the rod was almost torn from my grip as the fish decided that he wanted to go in the opposite direction. I just held the rod for the next thirty seconds or so and watched the spool of the reel, loaded with thirty-pound test Ande line, rapidly revolve as the fish made an incredibly long run. After working the fish back towards the boat several times only to have him take back all the hard-earned line, it became obvious that this was no cod. Sure enough, when the body of the fish first became visible under the surface of the clear green water, it was the silver flash of a pollack, not the brownish-gold of the cod. The Captain sank the gaff into my first pollack in more than ten years, a beautiful fish in the mid-twenties. While I was working my fish in, I had been so busy that I hadn't noticed that everyone else aboard was also into fish and we had four rods going at once. Shortly after my fish hit the deck, four more pollack were right behind it. One each for Stu and Frankie and a double-header for Rich.

And that's the way it went—for the next three-and-a-half hours! To say that we were catching twenty-pound cod and pollack like we were mackerel fishing wouldn't be an exaggeration. The only difference was that it took a lot longer to get these fish in than a two-pound mackerel: the pollack, in particular, just wouldn't give up. All you could do was sock up on the drag, keep pressure on them and wait for them to tire out. And the codfish we caught didn't have to make any apologies to anyone, either. The fact that they were aggressive because they were feeding on the sand eels and competing with the much swifter pollack combined with the relatively shallow water, resulted in the cod putting up battles more than favorably comparable to that of a striped bass.

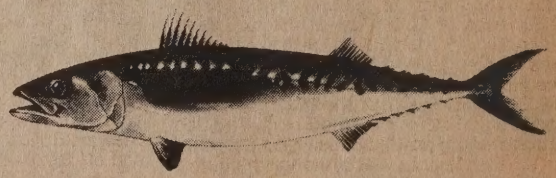
You know that the fishing is really something great when I stop to take pictures of the action while the fish are still biting. I told everyone that I had to get this all down on film, but the truth of the matter was that my arms just gave out and I needed a rest. I was the first to quit after about two-and-a-half hours of winching in fish and was quickly followed by Richie, who decided to "help" me with the picture-taking chores. Even Stu decided to call it a day after three hours of action without a let-up, which is remarkable for a guy who has averaged 1.29 cod for every trip he has made in the past ten years. We finally had to stop Frankie after three-and-a-half hours with threats of bodily harm. Frank is the type who won't stop fishing until the fish are filleted and the boat is cleaned.

I took the wheel on the ride back to Montauk Light so that John could gut the fish and clean the boat. (Me and Frank fishing together make for a very untidy boat because we both hate the cleaning chores. This had Oak Gentry at White Water Marine in Oakdale shaking his head in wonderment when I brought the boat in last fall for a little Rest & Recuperation. He said we would really be in trouble if we ever sank because the chum slick created from the dried bait on the hull would bring every shark within ten miles on the run.)

Anyway, we were already within sight of the jetties of Montauk Lake, when John finally finished gutting the catch which had filled the fish box, a fifty-five-gallon barrel and overflowed to almost cover the entire deck of the cockpit. Total for the day: seventy-one fish, divided almost evenly between cod and pollack. Total weight **after** gutting: over 1400 pounds, making for an average weight of over twenty pounds. The fishing had been so "fantastic" that Stu Miller got so excited, he forgot to get seasick!

The codfishing at Block Island thus far this year has been excellent, if not occasionally erratic. For the most part, the fish have been small, but the conditions are right for another repeat of last year's phenomenal run of fish. More and more big pollack are being taken daily, the water is warming up, and I would be very surprised if another spring blitz didn't start shortly after this article is published. Last year, many fishermen missed out on the action because once the word got out, most of the open boats were sailing at capacity and the charterboats were getting more calls than they could handle. From the calls coming into The Fisherman from readers wanting to know if the Brown Bombers and Silver Bullets have arrived yet, it seems that there are an awful lot of fishermen holding back for the action to start, which may leave a lot of them standing on the dock once the action gets in full swing. I strongly suggest that you make that charter NOW and don't wait for the headlines to appear. Try to go on a weekday if you can swing it. Last year the boat traffic off Block Island on the weekends looked like Great South Bay on Labor Day. If the pollack haven't arrived yet, you can still get your fill of cod or get in on some of the best fishing in many years for snowshoe flounder close to the harbor.

Next week I'll go into the various ways you can rig up for the cod and pollack and how you have to work the jig—which is quite different than for bass or bluefish.



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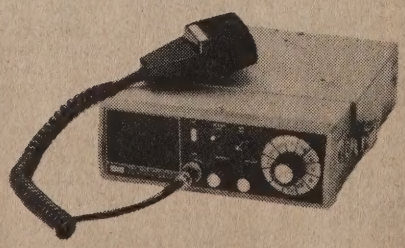

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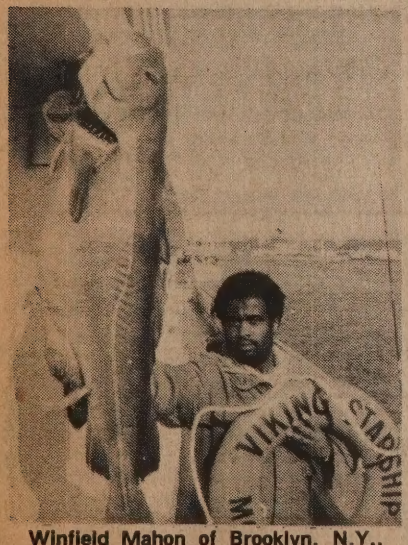
MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
COD

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fishing Fleet** reported that the **Viking Star** sailed all week and was catching good at Shark's Ledge. The codfish averaged between 6 to 15 lbs. The **Viking Starship** didn't sail during the week because it was having the new "side-thrusters" installed. But the StarShip made it to Coxes Ledge on Saturday and Sunday and found very good cod action there for larger fish than found off Block Island. On Saturday the boat had six hangers and 10 hangers on Sunday. A "hanger" is a cod over 30 lbs. Anglers took about a half dozen big pollack in the low twenties, which is a good sign that the spring run may be about to begin. The Captain noted that a few snowshoe flounder up to 4 lbs. are also being taken in the Block Island area by those fishing for cod.

Capt. Warren Hader of the charter boat **Devil Fish** reported that the cod are very numerous but are moving around and you have to find them. On Saturday and Sunday, the fish were in thick close by at the southwest ledge of the Hooter buoy. Almost all of the fish are being taken on bait, with the average fish on the small side and an occasional 20 pounder. Sunday's score was 50 cod per charter.

Capt. Fritz of the **Mistress Too** reported that the cod had been moving around and are being located on a daily basis at either the southwest ledge, the Hooter buoy or south/southeast of Block Island. Best action was on Saturday off Block Island when 70 cod were taken. Sunday's score was 50 cod taken at southwest ledge and the Hooter buoy. The fish are starting to hit Diamond jigs, but the majority of the cod are still being taken on bait. The fish are averaging around 8 lbs., and range up to 15. Fritzie said that although he didn't have any pollack, he heard that Larry Keller nailed a big one on a Diamond jig



Winfield Mahon of Brooklyn, N.Y., with a 61 lb. cod he caught aboard the "Viking STarship," fishing Saturday, April 29.

Bill Ricca of Commack, N.Y., with his catch of snowshow flounder, several over 3 lbs., caught at Washington Shoals. Photo courtesy of Gone Fishing Marina.

and also that some were being taken at Coxes Ledge.

Capt. John DeMaio of the charterboat **Vivienne** called to report that he has been sidestepping the codfish action to capitalize on the excellent snowshoe flounder fishing he has found at a few spots west of the jetties. Every trip during the week and on the weekend produced at least 30 big flounder in the 3 lb. class. John said that mussels used for chum and bait were the key.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** reported that the boats that fished south of Block Island over the weekend did a good job on the cod, while those that stuck closer to home and fished at Cartwright didn't fare as well. Once again, Capt. Ronnie Goldberg of the "Barbar Jack" was high hook at the Marina with 60 cod on Saturday and more than 100 cod on Sunday, fishing with skimmer clams south of Block Island. Stewart Borker of the "Fun Time" took 60 cod off Block Island on Sunday, while the "Tom Kat" stuck close to home and bagged an impressive 50 cod at the Submarine Buoy.

Viking Skipper II reports fishing at Block Island over the weekend was good. Bud says all his customers on Sunday averaged roughly 10 cod per man. Eric Mangles of Appalachia, N. Y. and his friend Charlie Pape of W. Babylon had 26 cod between them. Eric won the pool with a 32 pounder.

The Charter boat **Adios** reports that on Saturday they had 40 cod fishing Shark's Ledge on clam. Capt. Phil Lewis also tells us that Sunday's charter of really good fishermen hit a day when the fish didn't bite until the last hour, but in that hour, they decked 50 cod with one going slightly over 40 lbs., all on bait.

Gone Fishing Marina tells of a 53.5 lb. cod decked by Suzanne Damm of Richmond Hill. Suzanne and her friends, Ron and Tom, also caught another 150 lbs. of cod. This was all on Wednesday at Cartwright on clam. Saturday, 3 flounder-pounders had 40 plus fish up to 4 lbs., the fortunate trio were Richard Huber and son and friend Gary. They fished Washington Shoals and caught on clam. One of the boats at the marina took 450 lbs. of cod at Cartwright on Sunday.

Capt. Frank of the **Free Spirit** called to say that the flounder fishing at Gardiner's

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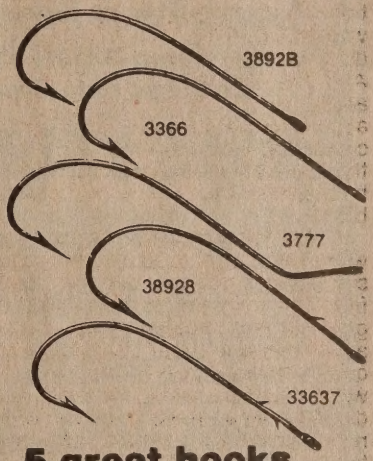

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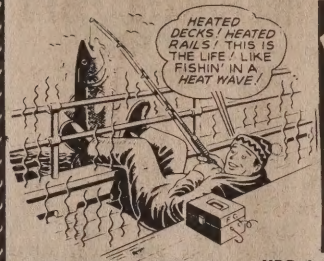

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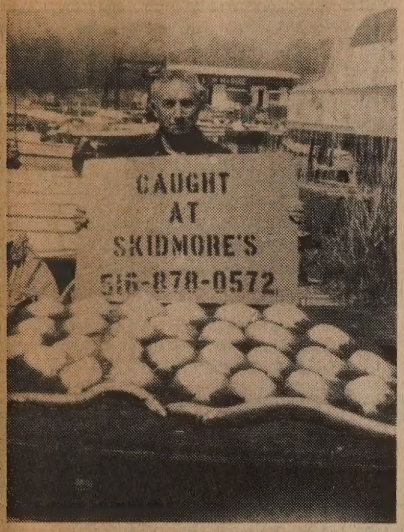
Island was slow Saturday morning. Frank managed to get some nice size fish at Washington Shoals in the afternoon. Sunday, Block Island cod trip was mediocre, with most of the cod hitting in an hour's blitz. Frank expects the codfish to really get good in the next few weeks.



Hank Schlanger and his catch of 30 flounder up to 2 lbs. and 5 eels taken in 2 hours of fishing NE of buoy 42 during first two hours of outgoing. Mussel chum and bloodworms were bait used. Photo courtesy Skidmore's Fishing Station.

SHINNECOCK

The Captain Clark Fleet reports they have just had the best flounder week of the season so far, although the northeast storm caused Friday's action to diminish for the weekend, but Saturday and Sunday were still good. Some fares had catches in the twenties on flounder, while Ed Miller of Manhattan had 31 flounder on Saturday and took the pool with a two pounder. Captain Clark Bellows expects the weakfish action to start aboard his boat in about one week. A few tide runners have already been taken in the canal and at Cow Neck.

HAMPTON BAYS

Corr's Fishing Station reports that the flounder fishing remains good in Shinnecock bay with catches up to 50 good sized fish taken by many anglers. The Surf Side Three Tuna Club of Lindenhurst enjoyed good floundering on Sunday, the largest being a two pounder taken by Club guest Diane Shollden. Best action was off buoy 34, the Greenlawn and the basket areas on both rising and falling tides. Weakfish of good size now being taken by local commercial fishermen. Look for weakfish action in Peconic Bay this coming weekend.

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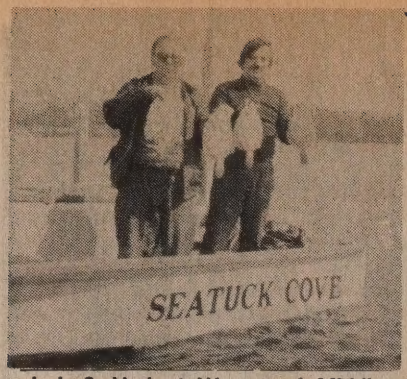

Jack & Herbert Wagner of Middle Village, Queens, with their catch of 22 good sized flounder up to 1½ lbs, caught northeast of Haven's Point in Seatuck Cove on Saturday April 29, 1978. They were caught on the incoming using sand worms and chumming with mussels and corn.

Tony's Fishing Station reported that although the weatherman scared most of the people away with an erroneous weather "forecast," those who did come out on the weekend found some flounder fishing right in front of the station at buoys 17 and 18. The average catch was 25 to 30 fish per boat, and one boat on Sunday took 60. The fish have been hitting on any moving tide and it's been a steady pick all day, but you have to chum with a lot of mussels. Tony said that the fish re are still a nice size and the majority of the flounder are over 1 lb. The mackerel are thick southeast of Shinnecock Inlet in 90 ft. of water. A few squid are mixed in with the mackerel and there are dogfish beneath them. Gary on the "Diamond II" has been taking all the mackerel he wants.

MORICHES BAY

Skidmore's Fishing Station tells of very good flounder action with a steady per skiff catch of 30 to 70 flounder. These fish are very fat and there are a lot of large specimens ranging 1¾ to 2 lbs., with almost no midgets. All boats are catching. Best is northeast of buoy 42 in shallow water right near the station. Buoys 46 and 47 are also producing well for the skiffs from **L&M Marine**. The last two hours of the flood and the last two of the ebb have been best. Best flounder now and better to come once they move out of the mud. Bloodworms and red-dyed clams and plenty of chum are the ticket. The Bay was flat calm this weekend, despite the usually incorrect weather reports and you can now fish with half ounce sinkers. All of May should be good.

East Moriches Bait and Tackle tells us that on Saturday, Bill DeLuca and Stan Saneski bailed 588 mackerel in about four hours time, fishing southeast of Moriches C buoy. On Sunday, Bill, Stan and Fred Mignone, Mike and Bill Smith went out to the same location and got roughly 500 macks in about three hours time. For flounders, the action at buoys 42 and 43 has been good. One man took an 8 lb and a 4 lb. weakfish near the Smith Point bridge on sand worms.

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FLOUNDER

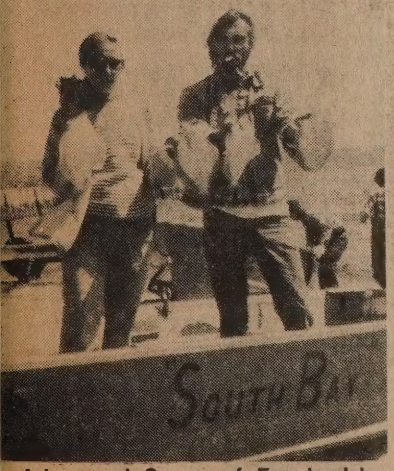
MASTIC BEACH

Stiriz Fishing Station informs us that ıe weakfish are in. Buoy 12 is the hottest ɔot on red and white salty dogs fishing vo hours at the beginning of the flood. apt. Bill took a 10 lb. 4 oz. weak the first the season for him in this manner. here are big tiderunners right now. xtremely big flounder at buoys 9 and 10 ı big sandworms. Showing a distinct ɔn-preference for bloods. Frank Cambell ad a 3 lb. 2 oz. flounder on Saturday, a rute for this area. He also had 15 other sh over 2 lbs. in front of the pink house. unday saw lots of flounders caught at uoy 19, but these fish were a little naller. Jersey fishermen Bob and Joe chnell caught over 300 flounder on loodworms Sunday on each side of the igh, with plenty of mussel chum. Plenty f macks, whiting, ling on the outside in 5-90 feet of water outside Moriches Inlet ı Diamond jigs and mackerel trees. The ıarterboat **Sea Mist** had 350 mackerel for charter from Pennsylvania on Tuesday.

Capt. Fred of the charter boat **Seamist** alled to tell us that Wednesday's charter f four from Pennsylvania headed up by arry Pikula bagged over 350 mackerel shing just east of the Moriches Inlet C uoy in 80 ft. of water.

SAYVILLE

Young's Fishing Station reports that Mr. Toledo took a 12 lb. weakfish on aturday at Ocean Beach, along with three ther weaks and two sea bass, all on pink alty dogs. Jim Fliedner bagged a half ozen weaks off Blue Point just one mile outheast of the station, also on salty dogs nd squid strips. Most of their skiffs are oing for and catching flounders off Blue Point's buoy 31 and off Heckscher and off Barrett Beach on the slopes. This is on worms, clam and clam chum with the changes of tide producing best. Stirring up the bottom is also vital. Clay Hardner on Thursday got a few weakfish on salty dogs and squid fishing Heckscher. The weaks are picky on hook and line right now, but the gillnetters are clobbering them. Anglers should really be able to dig in with just a few days of warm weather.



Arlene and George of Farmingdale with 30 flounder weighing up to 1¾ lbs., taken on worms and mussels between buoys 28 and 29.

WEST SAYVILLE

South Bay Fishing Station also reports the weakfish are IN. Dennis and Brett Gwant of Manhattan had five weaks up to 10 lbs. on Saturday, fishing buoys 4 and 5 while flounder fishing. On seeing rising fish, they cast salty dogs and flounder strip baits and took these tiderunners. On Sunday, Ariel Guttierrez nailed an 11 lb. 5 oz. weak off Ocean Beach on a green salty dog. The flounder action is still pretty good at Heckers's buoys 4 and 5 on worms and mussel chum.

EAST ISLIP

Buoy 2 Sports Shop reports Bob and Pop Romney and Glen Miller got 50 flounders between 1 and 1½ lbs., on Saturday near West Island on bloodworms. Another customer had 35 fish at the south end of Range Channel, heaviest 2 lb. 1 oz. On Friday, another customer brought in 6 weakfish taken at the Heckscher Flats on salty dogs and squid strips.

BAY SHORE

Charterboat **Sea Ranger** called to tell us that on Sunday, he had a good pick on flounder, north of Buoy 8 off Ocean Beach, fish from 1½ to 1¾ lbs., on worm and clam with sand worms working best. Capt.

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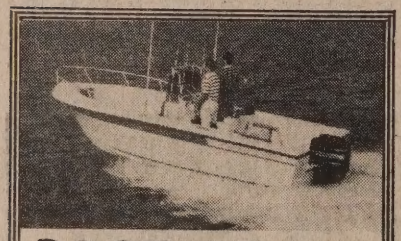

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John says the difference in the bait made a huge difference and that when things died down at one period, only sand worms continued to produce fish. This was a charter from the Dix Hills Fire Dept., hook and ladder #3. A 3 lb. fluke was taken on the **Trade Winds** out of Captree, while flounder fishing, along with a good catch of flounder. This was close to the mouth of the inlet. Mackerel in 45 to 80 feet of water, both east and west of Fire Island inlet, with Sunday and Saturday seeing very good catches. John says the only open date he has remaining is Mother's Day, May 14.

Smokey's Bait and Tackle tells of flounders caught this past week best in West Channel Drain and Clam Pond, fish of 1 lb. 12 oz. and 1 lb. 9 oz. taken Sunday on worms, clams and clam chum. The Sore Thumb is also producing well. Weakfish at Ocean Beach and Fair Harbor as evidenced by may 3's catch by Bob Nevin of 8 lb. 9 oz. weak taken on a salty dog during the last hours of the flood. Mike Baxter of Bright Waters had a few weakfish in the State Channel on pink salty dogs on Sunday. Generally there are a couple of weaks per boat trying and the fish are large size. Mackerel southwest of the inlet and southeast of the inlet at approximately the 75 foot line and very good catches made over the weekend.

Capt. Walter of the **Casey Lee** reports flounder continue to be excellent with catches of 15 to 30 fish per man all week long. Worms are working best and the best area has been West Channel which is 10 minutes from the dock. On Sunday, Bob Barbini of Queens had the first fluke of the season on the boat taken on a worm dressing a flounder hook. A number of fluke have been caught and Friday, May 12 the boat will be switching to daily fluking at 7:45 a.m. Walter is now weakfishing every afternoon at 4 Pm, which will continue along with the AM fluking.

BABYLON

Hi-Hook Fishing Station tells us that Fred Ettinger of Brooklyn had 25 flounder on bloodworms fishing both southeast and southwest of the Moses Bridge Center Span. Also on Sunday, Frank Sevarese took an identical 25 flatties fishing the flat near the bridge, astern of the clam boats, which were churning up the bottom. Frank also used bloodworms.

Augie's Bait and Tackle reports the mackerel action is strong, though Sunday was off a little. Saturday saw a leap job by most boats fishing southwest of the inlet off Gilgo in 75 ft. of water. Flounders are still of good number, with Al Giglio, Charlie and Hazel Hill and Jim Linsalata fishing the Sore Thumb for 101 keeper flounder on worms, clam and mussel. They then jigged 40 mackerel on the outside. Connie Cusack and George Finlupon bagged 32 good flounder in the flats behind Good Sam on clam and worm. A pure white flounder (an albino) was caught by one customer and this fish is presently in Augie's freezer for those who care to come take a peek. Some weakfish reports from Heckscher on pink salty dogs, but no details.

CAPTREE

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty** called to report that the flounder have been holding up very well. There are plenty of fish in many locations, including Clam Pond, Sailor's Haven, West Channel and the Sore Thumb. The flounder are still a nice size and the best action has bee around both sides of the change of tide George said that everyday sees a sma fluke caught and he has seen a couple weakfish caught by private boats, but nc many as yet.

The Jib Fleet reports that on Saturda Millard Newman and son, Robert of Nev York City had 31 flounder. Frank Dilerni of Brentwood took the pool with a 2½ lb flounder and 12 other flatties. Goo action, but not a slaughter. Best area were West Channel and the Sore Thumb Sunday's flounder action was fair also Both Jib boats will also be running dail weakfishing trips, sailing 3:30 and 4:3 p.m.

The Capt. Eddy B had the Holme Protection Agency on Sunday fishing th top of the flood in the morning, did very well on flounders in Dickerson's channe on worms. On Sunday they picked away o several drops and saw several weakfis caught during most of the week. Some pods were seen on top. Salty dogs were doing the job at Ocean Beach. Eddie wil be running daily weakfish trips aboard the **Capt. Joseph II**, sailing 3:30 pm.

The Captree Queen reports that they are still getting plenty of flounder and occasional weakfish mixed in. The boat's afternoon weakfish trips will be limited t 29 passengers so that there will be ample room. Several 6 lb. weakfish have been caught during the week. Flounders have been good in both size and numbers and once they start on their way out, when the water gets a little too warm, the flounde should really break loose. They are fishing from the Thumb to Pointer Woods on both north and south sides, fishing worms and clam.

Capt. Neil of the charter boat **Lady Ann** reports flounders are excellent on some days and only fair on others. Saturday's charter had over 300 keeper flounder. Sunday's charter had roughly 200 flatties. Best area was West Channel, followed by Pointer Woods and then Heckschers buoy 2 on worms..

At this time, excellent catches of flounders, mackerel and the beginning of the spring run of weakfish are beginning in the area covered by the Captree Fleet. Check the individual boat ads for time and species as many boats are making two types of trips per day on a daily basis.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

LINDENHURST

Charlie's Bait and Tackle reports som good flounder catches being made at th Sore Thumb and the Oak Beach Coves The surf side at Democractic Point is als producing good size flounder up to 2½ lbs. on worms or clam. A few fluke ar being caught in the inlet on flounder rig with one fish going 3½ lbs. Mackerel ar around in good numbers due south of th inlet in 70 to 120 feet of water. A few weakfish on hook and line have been take in the State Channel at the drawbridge from the bank on small mackerel Rebels

The Sea Horse reports good flounde fishing all week long mainly west of th

bridge on the clam flats on bloodworms only. Ed Kellner of Lindenhurst had 26 on Saturday and 29 on Sunday, all 1½ lbs. or better. Catches are averaging 15 to 20 flounder per fare.

Capt. Pete Sindone of the Surf Side Tuna Club of Lindenhurst, called to report that on Saturday, 180° out of Fire Island Inlet in 85' of water, the **Serena Too** caught over 300 mackerel. On Sunday, they had a kick-off club tournament for flounder out of Shinnecock at Corrs Marina (for bay flounder). Diane Schoolden was the winner with a 2 lb. flounder.

COPIAGUE

Jonas Bait and Tackle tells of 3 weakfish caught Sunday, 8, 5 and 3 pounders all taken off Ocean Beach on pink shrimp lures and white bucktails. Two other weaks were caught at the Copiague Hole and 12 at Steamboat Channel on salty dogs tipped with squid. Flounders are still a good item and are spread all over with the Sore Thumb the best bet this past weekend on worm and clam baits. Small to fair size blackfish have been hitting sandworms and clam at the Kismet Reef, best results on high or low slack. Mackerel poor on Sunday, but very good Thursday, Friday and Saturday in 70 feet of water.

Bait and Tackle Unlimited reports flounders are still good with clam baits apparently working better than worms for his customers. State Channel west of the Babylon cut and in the Bay off the Hospital have been good producing area this past week. Some weakfish off Heckscher and Gilgo on sand worms and salty dogs with squid strips. Mackerel due south of the Fire Island Inlet anywhere from 3 to 7 miles. A few fluke at the last Meadowbrook bridge on sand eels.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle tells us of Dick Mermon's 7 lb. 3 oz. weakfish taken on a 9 inch Red Mann's Jellyworm coated with Indian Scent. Dick said a lot of fish were seen on his machine but the low water temperature made most of the fish sluggish and unresponsive. This was on the bay side of Ocean Beach. The Squadron Anglers had their flounder outing at Three Mile Harbor on the weekend and boated up with flounders up to 3 lbs. Locally, the Sore Thumb has been best for flounder over the weekend on worms, clams and mussels. A few blackfish have been taken under the Wanatagh bridges and at Kismet Reef on green crabs when the tide slows. Good flounders at West Island and off Gilgo and the State Channel. George now has a fishing report that he gives over WGLI (1290 on the dial) at 6:15 a.m. and 6:45 p.m., so you can tune him in for up to the minute reports. Very good mackerel fishing in 70 ft. of water south of Fire Island Inlet this past weekend.

SEAFORD

Naomi Inn Fishing Station reports that Bill Olsen and Glen Scott had a bushel of flounders with ten in the 2 lb. category on Sunday, taken at the east entrance of Zach's Bay on sand worms and a lot of mussel chum. Most of Bob's skiffs are picking flounder in the Massapequa Cove area on worms and clam, with most boats bringing back about a dozen in a couple hours time. A neighbor bagged a 22 lb. striper under the second Wantagh bridge on a sand worm last week, so how about them apples.

Lon Wanser's Bait and Tackle reports

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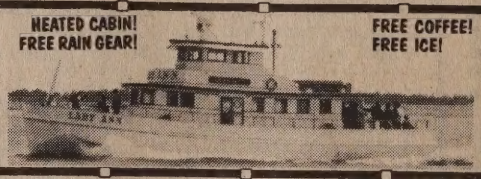

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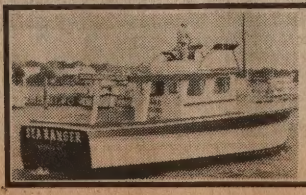

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the fishing has been fair!good. Some customers bragging while some are complaining. Among the braggers were Ralph Levy of Great Neck, Bill Johnson of Selden, and Fred Fritze of Daytona Beach, Florida, who fished on Ralph's "Sir Speedy," at Squaw Island and with worms on the hook and ground bellies in a pot, boated 32 good flounder up to 1¼ lbs. on Saturday. Lon says good fishermen can get a good catch. Worm are working best and mussels next best. He says clam chum is really a super weapon on the flounder. Mackerel south of Fire Island inlet, roughly three miles off the beach while some blacks at the bridges on clam and worm are starting to show. Florence Beach is also producing blacks.

MERRICK

Merrick Marine Supplies reports weak-fish off Ocean Beach on salty dogs tipped with squid. Some fluke taken in the Ocean Beach area also on squid strips tipping the rubber shrimp. Flounder fishing is off a bit this past week. It's spotty and you've got to search for the fish. They are gathered in small pods. Worms and mussels are a good bet, plus plenty of

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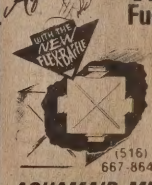

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chum. Macks at the Cholera and the BA and moving. Very good action Saturda south of Fl Inlet.

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** report some good, some fair and some poo flounder results, depending on the plac dropped. Again, Broad Creek produce the two best catches—25 for one man an 26 for two people in another skiff Thursday morning saw Ned's Cree produce 30 flounder in hour and 1 minutes for two more anglers. Clam an worm on the hook and mussel chum wa the ticket. Jimmy heard of 40 blackfis taken by Fred Wertz on green crab at th third Meadowbrook.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station tells u that Jim Johnson and Charlie Mille bagged mackerel over the weeken fishing south of Cholera as did Fran LaLima and Joe McKeefery. Flounde action still good in Middle Bay and Cinde Creek on worms and clam chum.

reports that their boats that sailed this weekend loaded up with mackerel. An example was the **Nite Owl II** with 1600 macks for 20 people, high hook 97 fish. Ninety percent of these were mackerel, 10 percent whiting. The Atlantic had 800 mackerel for 20 men. The **Acme II** fished flounder in Reynolds Channel and Jones Inlet and also fished just outside the Inlet at buoy 19 for whiting and ling.

Charterboat **Shalidon** called to tell us that on Saturday he had 300 lbs. of mackerel in a short time fishing at the Farms.

The **Bluefin Fleet** called to report that the **Bluefin** and the **Bluefin II** both had super mackerel fishing over the weekend fishing the Gilgo area due south of Fire Island. Fish were really flying, said Sy, ranging from 1/2 to 2 lbs. In addition, whiting and herring were caught when rigs were dropped to the bottom. On Saturday, 2½ hours produced over 500 fish on the BF 2. It was like old times.

Hook, Line and Sinker tells us blacks are being taken on clam at the Meadowbrook Bridges. A 7¼ lb. weakfish was taken by Dick Mermon at Ocean Beach on an Indian-scented rubber worm. Flounder are still around, but are slower now, best action in Baldwin, Merrick Bay and High flats drain area. Bellies in the pot are important. Bob weighed in a 6 lb. weakfish taken on Wednesday off Ocean Beach on a salty dog tipped with squid which also accounted for two 3 lb.

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blackfish.

The STarstream II reports mackerel fishing excellent all week long, except for Friday. Saturday they fished southwest of the Farms and Klondike for bags full of mackerel and whiting. Richie fished from Gilgo east on Sunday, with most men taking a full bag off the boat. Fish were medium to large. Great mackerel fishing.

The Aloma II reports all medium to big mackerel and lots of them all week long and super fishing on the weekend, locally south of Fire Island Inlet. As an example, the boat was on one drift for two solid hours on Saturday.

The **Capt. Hall** found the mackerel fishing to be excellent also and fish were close. The captain said fares caught all that they possibly wanted and people were either filling sacks or fishing for sport with light tackle.

The Capt. Lou II tells us on Monday, Charlie Heileman of the Bronx had 31 flounder. On Wednesday, Mr. Sarrugglo, son and pal, Brian, took 63 flounder home. Sunday saw over 200 flounder caught and Capt. Mike says the action is picking up again and these are big fish. He's fishing the local creeks and channels. Mussel on the hook, stirring up the bottom, corn chum, etc. You have work hard for the fish as they are in the mud, but they are going up to 2½ lbs.

Stu Miller and Capt. Joe Long of the Nite Owl filled the box with mackerel on Saturday fishing in 70 ft. of water due south of Fire Island Inlet in just about an hour and a half's time. These were all

medium to large fish.

The Capt. Al has been fishing mackerel all week long locally and reports very good catches for all fares. Fishing ranged from Cholera to Fire Island Inlet.

Charterboat **Sea Hawk** reports that on Thursday over 100 mackerel and a few whiting were taken fishing about five miles south of Jones Tower in 60 ft. of water, but it was picky. On Sunday, Charles Rothbart and family from Merrick stopped counting mackerel after 250 fish. They filled the fish box and a twenty gallon can and then hit the last school of fish. Bunker chum was used to keep the macks under the boat. They gave up arm weary at 1:30 p.m.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports flounder have slowed, but they are still being caught and they are good sized. High boat on Sunday was 20 flounder. High Flats Drain, Long and Swift Creeks produced best on bloodworm and clam and mussel chum. Some blackfish at the third Meadowbrook. One angler had 20 blackfish, with four going up to 4 lbs., all on clam at the slack. Blacks also on the T wreck Saturday on clam.

Charterboats **Su Lu and Pisces** both fished Saturday south of Fire Island Inlet and 200 plus and 278 mackerel each for their four-man charters.

Capt. Mike Miller of the **Apus** called to say that Sunday, May 7 his fares caught 35 flounder of 1/2 to 1¾ lbs. on worms and clams fishing Cedar Creek, Swift Creek and Squaw Islands. Anglers were Dr. Harold Pearson, and Mr. Glen Graves and their children.

Charterboat **Ivory Queen** called to tell us that on Thursday he had the Fresh Pond Fishing Club out for a total of 59 flounder, many in the two pound class. Capt. Bill fished the ebb at Pole 19 in Reynolds Channel at Garrett's Lead. Worms and red and yellow clam and heavy chumming did the job. The pool was a 2½ lb. flounder taken by Charlie Fierghry. High hook was John Marchochi with 14 fish.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports flounder fishing excellent Saturday and Sunday. Andy Santasine, Andy, Jr., Nat Horowitz and Ed Alward from Staten Island had 85 fish from Middle Bay. Most other boats had 2 to 3 dozen fish per man, with each boat averaging 40 to 50 fish.

Meadowbrook bridge also produced blackfish up to 5 lbs. Offshore mackerel moved in, east and west of Jones Inlet, along with whiting.

ISLAND PARK

Stephen Weitzen, Island Park and Joe Masone went out on Joe's boat, the **Debra** on saturday in 110 ft. of water, 145 degrees out of Jones Inlet and got 8 cod ranging from 25 to 35 lbs. They caught a load of dogfish, half a garbage can full of mackerel, herring, ling and whiting. Sunday Stephen Weitzen, Joe Masone, and Fred Weitzen went back out and got a full garbage can of mackerel, herring, ling and dogfish. Water temp was 46 degrees. Only one person caught cod on Sunday.

The Commodore reports Thursday's flounder fishing was good as evidenced by Leo Straw of Maspeth and his catch of 35 flounder including a pool fish of 2 lbs. 4 oz. Saturday's catch was fair, averaging 15 per man. Sunday's catch was even better. Frank Herskowitz bagged 29 keeper flounder and Bob Mitchell on Friday had 19 fish. Clem fished Deb's Inlet, Duck Point, Reynold's Channel and Hog Channel. The fish are almost ready to start moving out. Worms and mussel are the bait and mussel chum. The water is still cold and fish not that active. The Atlantic Beach Bridge produced 12 blackfish up to 3 lbs. on frozen green crabs at high slack on Saturday morning.

The Ginnie-Mae has been staying with the ling and whiting mainly, with a smattering of macks. Bill reports there are plenty of fish and he is working local grounds outside of East Rockaway Inlet and the Buoy 4 area for some mackerel.

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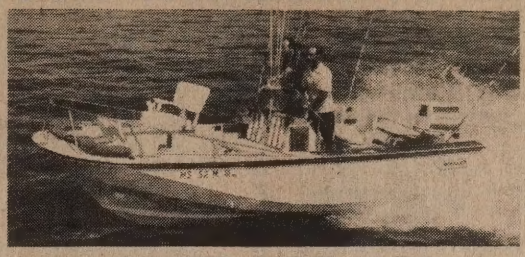

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LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina reports that Saturday was just about blown out from the wind and rain, but on Suday all the dories got out and got fish, not quantity, but good quality. A few mackerel taken just west of Jones Inlet. Ling and whiting at buoy 4. A couple of fluke were taken Sunday on one of their skiffs by flounder fishermen working Reynolds Channel.

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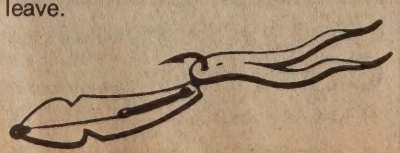
Surf Side: TOWD POINT

(Continued from page 19.)

method described, and after casting, I set it in a sand spike. Meanwhile, I plug with the second rod, working fairly close to the first. I check the bait about every ten minutes. If nothing happens, I move a few yards and begin again. If the baited rod begins to produce, a snap swivel enables me to convert entirely to casting bait. Should the plugging produce—needless to say—the devil with the other rod. I usually begin fishing near the rip and then move on to the channel.

Although there can be hitless day, as we all know, sooner or later, something gives at Towd Point. If you find the north side of the Shinnecock Canal (ten minutes away) too crowded or Jessup Neck (even closer) too much of a hike on a hot day, give Towd Point a try. You may find it hard to leave.



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JAMAICA BAY

John at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** tells of good flounder fishing on the North and South Channel bridges on worms and mussel baits. Blackfish at all the bridges, with the North Channel Bridge best on clam, fiddlers and even sand worms. Striped bass are here and there on worms with catches being made off the North Channel bridge, many by flounder fishermen on worms.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The Dorothy B reports tremendous amounts of whiting and ling plus some mackerel. This is just an hour from the dock and again, the catches are very big.

Captain Walter on the **Flamingo III** reports he has had a very good week fishing on mackerel and that this has been the best week of the season so far. Excellent action and excellent catches mainly off the Asbury Park area and the BA area. Excellent whiting catches also along with the macks when the rig is fished on the bottom.

The Blue Sea III reports loads of mackerel and whiting, as fast as you can pull them out of the water. Captains Joe and Nick are fishing the East Lump off Asbury Park.

The **Zephyr** has also been having very good ling and whiting action along with a few blackfish up to 3 lbs., all on clam. Catches are anywhere from a half to a whole sack per man.

Stella Maris Bait and Tackle reports plenty of mackerel on the open boats. Steeplechase Pier has been producing loads of whiting and ling, mostly whiting on sand eels. Lots of whiting by Ambrose. Plenty of flounder on the flats off Manhattan Beach and off the jetty. Good blackfishing at the jetty area and on the headboats going for them.

Charter boat **Babe** called to report that on Sunday, Marv, Allen, Mike, Ellie and Steve had 82 flounder, whiting and blackfish up to 4 lbs. fishing the Rockaway jetty area. This was on clam, mussel and worms.

Pilot II happily reports a good steady catch daily of bulldog blackfish, good all week and weekend. Capt. Tom is fishing the Jersey Coast. Biggest fish this week was a 9½ lb. black and the pool is usually in the 6 to 7 lb. range. Fish are averaging 2 to 4 lbs. He is finding more and more fish each day. Tom is fishing the offshore wrecks in SeaBright, 60 to 120 ft. of water. Some fish are being taken in 25 to 30 ft. of water, soon it will be mostly all shallow water fishing as the big females more

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shoreward to spawn.

Big Mohawk II reports excellent catches of whiting and ling at close by grounds.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santos Sport Shop** reports flounders are the main thing, with hotspots being Piers 17 and 18 in Clifton, up to 65 fish per person from the pier, from 1/2 to 1½ lbs. All areas of the pier are producing flounder, along with an occasional blackfish, bass or herring. Blood and sand worms on the hook. Great Kills Harbor and Princess Bay are producing flounders, but not as well as those piers. Some bass at the Great Kills Park Beach, better on the incoming tide to the tune of 8 to 10 fish per day for the beach, some 3 to 5 lbs. The Old Home Dock is producing blackfish where the cement top is caved in. These fish are in the 3 lb. class. Best bet for boatmen are blacks at the Lighthouse on crabs, if you can get them, otherwise clam.

MANHATTAN

Mark's Fishing Tackle tells us that Fred Magee of Manhattan has taken three keeper bass this weekend up to 7 lbs., nine flounder up to a pound, 12 eels and 2 tommycod in one day, fishing off the FDR Drive at Cherry Street with sand worms. Fish are also being caught by anglers casting varied colored bucktails at Ward's Island and also taking fish on sand worms. This same combination is working on these fish at the Brooklyn Bridge area. Mark also has an unconfirmed report of a 20 lb. bass taken from these waters. Note that this is all East River fishing.

NORTH SHORE WEST END
★ BEST BET ★ FLOUNDER

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait and Tackle reported boats out Sunday picked up good numbers of flounders and some blackfish. The weather has been holding back the numbers of fishermen out on the water. The City Island boats are getting mackerel but it took a lot of chum to get the fish in a hitting mood. No bass reports yet.

The Ebb Tide reports very good mackerel fishing from Hempstead Harbor to to Huntington Harbor. Saturday nearly all fares bagged up. The fish are in heavy.

RYE

Point Tackle reported some decent mackerel fishing in the area. Larry and Billy Herold picked up 18 in less than two hours Saturday morning. All the fish were good sized. Flounder fishing is holding up well.

GREENWICH

Sportsmen's Den reported lots of mackerel around over the weekend. Flounders were cooperating on the incoming tide. Blackfish were taking traps, but not on hook and line. Schools of sand eels around with something bothering them, but nobody knows just what. Bert has a sneaking suspicion they might be weakfish. No bass reports yet. Plenty of herring by the dam as of this report.

Greenwich Sportsmen's Center reported plenty of flounders around with a few good sized ones mixed in. There's some blackfish out by the mouth of the harbor. Rumors of bass being taken are floating around, but nobody has seen any fish yet.

Capt. John Minnitti of the **Delmar** reported he has switched over to mackerel fishing now. Fares are doing pretty good with the macks and this is expected to improved as more fish move in.

PECONICS & GARDINERS
★ BEST BET ★ FLOUNDER

GREENPORT

The Wilheric reported the fish moving around from day to day. Fishing is taking place over a wide variety of locations in Gardiner's Bay. On the nicer days when there is no wind, a drift produced decent catches up to 3½ lbs. It looks like we'll have two to three weeks of flatfishing before the weaks show up.

The Brand X reported the fish are scattered around, so the boat has to get them up in places like Hedges Bank, Great Creek and the Pug Light. On the nicer days, they usually get a fair shot at a decent mess of fish. The average size of the fish is very good.

A. P. White Bait Shop reported the nicer days are producing the most fish. Drifting is paying off on days when the wind is light. Fish are fairly abundant, but the individual size is very good. You have to hunt around until you find some fish.

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt reported the mackerel were around in full force over the weekend. All parties loaded up both days. Best location was the abandoned lighthouse and the Greenport Breakwater. Flounder fishing was good also to the east of Rams Head, 100 yards east of the Greenport Breakwater and the mouth of West Neck Creek. The Gromley family had 75 flats up to 2½ lbs. Trap fishermen are getting weakfish now and the first one should be taken with hook and line very soon.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reports flounder action is fair off Rose's Grove, Nassau Point and Whalebone on worms and mussels and mussel chum. Blackfish at Nassau point and buoy 25 on mussels and worms. A few mackerel are scattered at Middle Grounds, Nassau Point and buoy 25.

JAMESPORT

Warren's Tackle Center reported schools of mackerel moving through over the weekend. Flounders are all throughout the area but the bigger fish seem to be out east toward Nassau Point. Some weakfish

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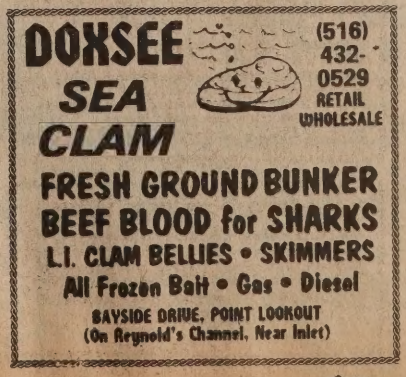

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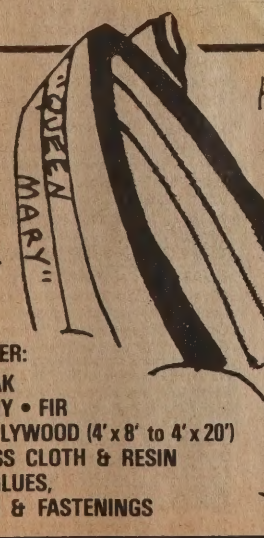

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★JOHNSON OUTBOARDS IN STOCK★

are coming through the canal and a few were caught in the evening from the beach at Cows Neck. A few blackfish are starting to hit on the Sound side.

ROCKY POINT

Stan at **Rocky Point Fish Stop** reports super mackerel activity in the sound and boats are really loading up with mackerel. One of the hot areas is 3 miles nort of buoy 11 where acres and acres of fish were seen and caught in the 1 to 2 lb range. Local Tom Brady and two pals say the recorders read almost pure black with mackerel just west of buoy 11 also. Blackfishing off the Wadin River beaches on worm and clam is good for this time of the year.

Larry Pikula of McKeesport, Pa. (L) with the mate of the "Seamist" and his parties' catch of 350 mackerel. Photo courtesy of Seamist Fishery.

NOYAC

Noyac Marina reports that on Sunday, Bill Fales and pal Dennis fished off the sand bar at Jessup's Neck, bringing back a load of flounders from 1¾ to 2½ lbs., taken on mussels, worms, and mussel chum. Bob and Barbara Williams and friends from Jamaica took 36 mackerel on Sunday morning off Buoy 17 and in the afternoon caught a quarter of a bucket of good flounders on worms and clam chum in the same area.

NORTH SHORE
MID-ISLAND
★BEST BET★
FLOUNDER

MT. SINAI HBR.

Bob DeMarco reports tons of mackerel in the sound from Old Field Point to Miller Place. Lots of blackfish at Cedar Beach on worms.

PORT JEFFERSON

The Betty W reports flounder was slow at the beginning of the week, but bounced back later in the week. Thursday, Eve Lowther had a 2 lb. pool fish. On Saturday, Les Watkins had a 2½ lb. pool fish. On Sunday, flounders and blacks were mixed. Late Sunday, 700-800 mackerel were taken and fares were ankle deep in mackerel.

Capt. Joe Cash of the **Port Jeff Ace** reports the finest kind of flounder action in the Port Jeff area. The Lutherans Men's Club of the Lutheran Church of Syosset.

Joe Delponti and Marty Tombari of Bayside caught these 53 flounders weighing up to 2½ lbs., at Nassau Point on sand worms and mussel. Photo courtesy of Capt. Marty's Fishing Station.

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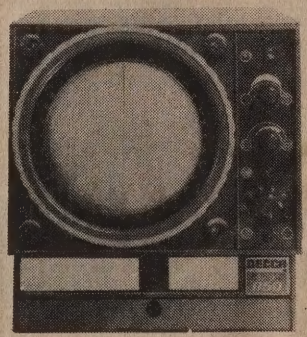

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35 men all loaded up on flounder. Bill Schmidt was high hook with 38 flatties up to 3 lbs. Saturday's afternoon trip for the Mt. Sinai Congregational Church saw Bill Hackett high hook with 22 flounder. On Sunday, fares loaded up on flounder again and on Sunday afternoon it was a leap job on mackerel. This was all outside Port Jefferson in the Sound. Joe says the fishing is really fabulous and the Sound is alive with fish. Please note that he is making 8 AM and 4 PM trips daily.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station reported lots and lots of mackerel by buoy 11 over the weekend. Arthur Haas and James Fitzpatrick had 450 macks between them. Still good catches of flounders in all the usual spots. James Jackson and Pete Farinno had 65 flats. Also the first fair catches of blackfish were made over the weekend.

KINGS PARK

Mae's Way Fishing Station reports excellent fishing in the area over the weekend for both flounder and mackerel with a few reports of blackfish being taken. On Saturday, Ted Sisissi, Sandy Giacobbe and Frank Grzymkowski brought in 62 flounders ranging up to 2 lbs, from the Mansion area. Clams and worms were the bait. Also on Saturday, Paul and Sophie Bruno had over 100 lbs. of Boston mackerel along with 25 flounder. On Sunday, Arnold Discoursi and John Koliner jigged 60 lbs. of mackerel in two hours, fishing off Crane's Neck.

NORTHPORT

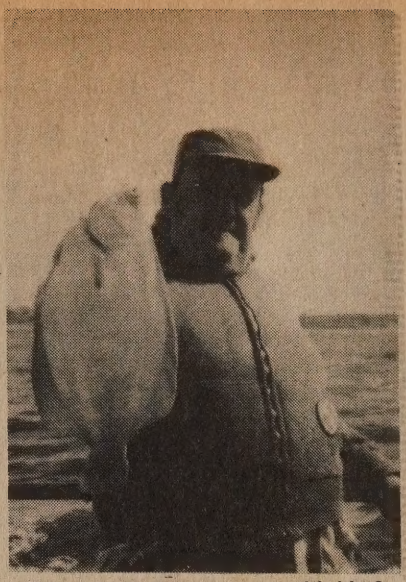
Bowman's Sporting Goods reports heavy catches of mackerel are being made by virtually every boat going out after them. The two hottest areas have been one-half mile in front of Lilco plant and five miles off of this same plant at their loading platform. Tom says keep in mind that the schools are constantly moving. On a seasonal basis, you will find these fish moving between the Lilco loading platform and Eaton's Neck Coast Guard Station and 50 to 100 fish per man is no big deal. Flounders are still around and are spread out. Duck Island is a good area, but you should also try the unlikely spots as well and catches are being made from boats or from the shore line. Callahan's, and Crab Meadow Beach have been doing particularly well on sand worm and clam baits and a working chum pot. Bass are spreading out from the power plant, but many are still in the hot water. Whole sand worms, Rebels and Atom plugs are being utilized with success. Fish are running 10 to 15 lbs., with the flood tide better, best being two hours before the hot.

(L-R) Bill Stritzl and son, Mathew, and Wally Hettwer and sons, with 36 flounder to 2 lbs., taken on sand worms at Callahan's. Photo courtesy of Mae's Way Fishing Station

HUNTINGTON

Capt. Don of the **Ever Ready** called to ask us to tell you that on Saturday, on the 4:30 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. run, he will be fishing mackerel for the remaining Saturdays in May. Over the weekend, Don Squires of Huntington was high hook with 14 flounder and Ed Lessen of Bronxville took the pool with a 1 lb. flounder.

Four Winds Tackle reported plenty of macks in the Sound over the weekend. Early in the morning was the best at places like 24D, 32A and north of 11B. Flounder fishing was good at Callahan's Beach. For blackfish, 4 blackfish up to 6½ lbs. made their appearance last week. Some bass up to 8 lbs. taken in Cold Spring Harbor. One fish was caught on a plug, but the rest took worms.



Alfred Folls of New Jersey with his 3 lb. flounder caught at Oyster Bay, aboard the City Island Fishing boat "Ebb Tide." Photo courtesy J & F Marine Corp.

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR	11:31	11:34	—	12:21	—	12:25	12:36	1:15	2:11	2:39	2:31	3:00	11:28	11:46	5/11
FRI	—	12:17	12:33	1:08	12:29	1:13	1:21	2:00	2:50	3:20	3:11	3:44	—	12:17	5/12
SAT	12:17	1:03	1:19	1:56	1:10	1:57	2:00	2:00	3:33	4:07	3:56	4:32	12:33	1:06	5/13
SUN	1:02	1:54	2:10	2:52	1:51	2:42	3:01	3:55	4:21	4:57	4:46	5:20	1:24	2:01	5/14
MON	1:54	2:46	3:03	3:46	2:37	3:30	4:00	4:46	5:16	5:53	5:39	6:12	2:20	2:57	5/15
TUE	2:49	3:42	4:01	4:41	3:31	4:23	4:56	5:36	6:13	6:49	6:33	7:05	3:15	3:51	5/16
WED	3:49	4:41	4:57	5:32	4:28	5:18	5:48	6:21	7:12	7:46	7:26	7:56	4:09	4:41	5/17
THUR	4:54	5:33	5:48	6:19	5:32	6:09	6:40	7:06	8:10	8:41	8:21	8:44	5:02	5:29	5/18

How To Use Tide Tables

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet —0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 09
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 06
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Petunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Hackscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	+ 0 19
Zacha Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 06
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 06
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	+ 0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 06
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 19
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 36
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 06
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Welch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

5/1	5:56	7:58
5/6	5:50	8:04
5/11	5:44	8:09
5/16	5:39	8:14
5/21	5:34	8:19
5/26	5:31	8:24

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
5/7	5/15	5/22	5/29

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	**Major**	Minor	**Major**
Thurs.	8:45	**2:55**	9:06	**3:20**
Fri.	9:25	**3:45**	9:55	**4:10**
Sat.	10:25	**4:35**	10:45	**5:00**
Sun.	11:15	**5:20**	11:30	**5:40**
Mon.	11:55	**6:00**	—	**6:20**
Tues.	12:10	**6:40**	12:35	**7:00**
Wed.	12:50	**7:20**	1:15	**7:45**
Thurs.	1:30	**8:06**	2:00	**8:30**

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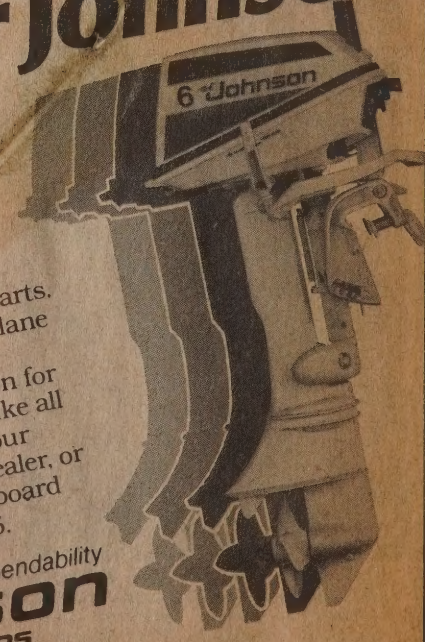

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